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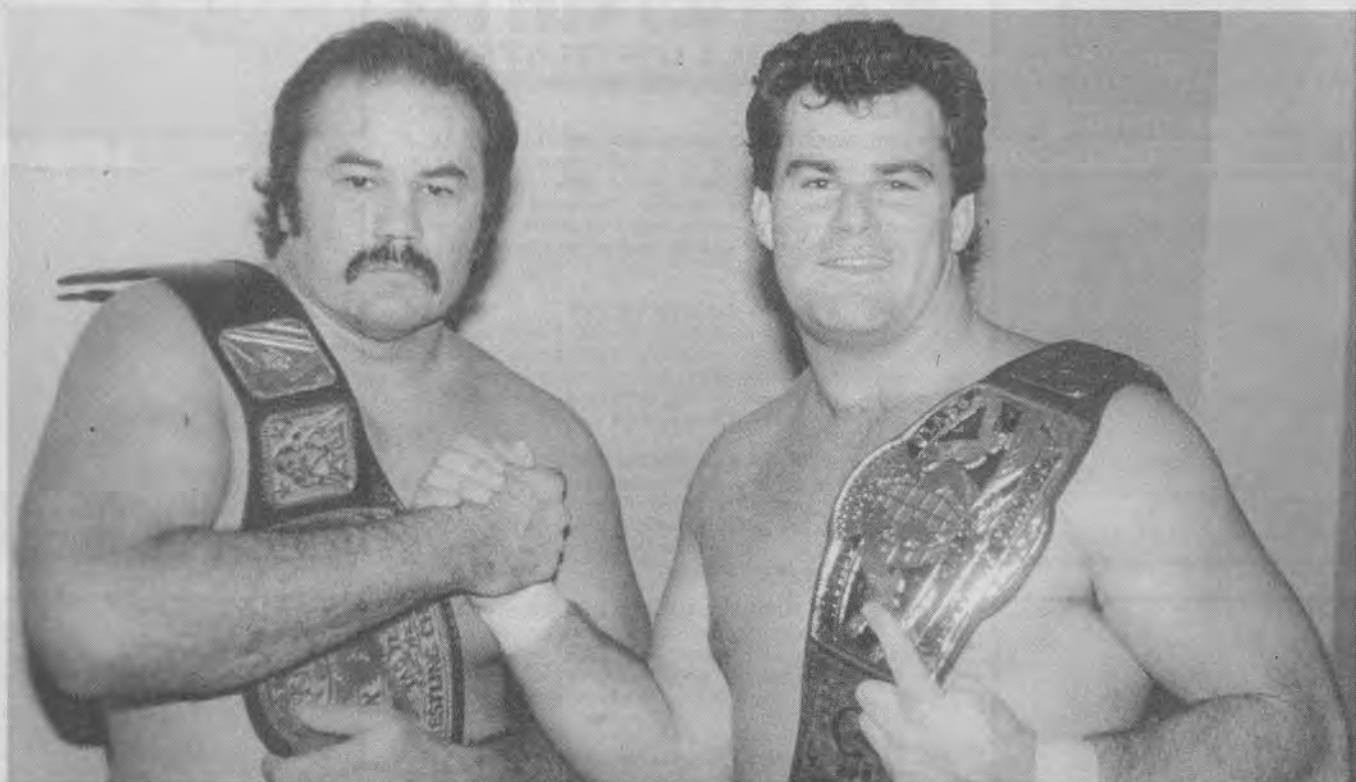
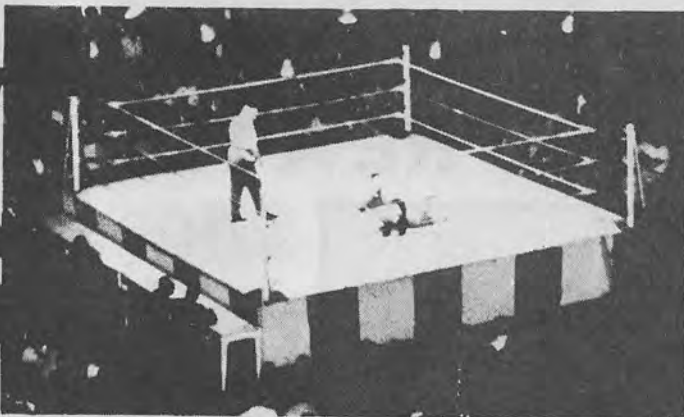
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Al Madril and Brian Adias are the World Class tag team champions, but they are anything but classy champions in the eyes of Gina Mosley of Ennis, Texas.

TEXAS OUTCASTS

An open letter to Sunshine and Brian Adias:

Sunshine, I used to have great respect for you, until you joined up with the so-called "Fabulous" Freebirds. Now I have lost a lot of it. The Freebirds are nothing but lowdown, cheating scum. All they ever know how to do is cheat.

I hope you and The Freebirds never come back to Texas. You have gone through so many wrestlers that I have lost count. Now, you say that you are with winners, but The Freebirds mean nothing to me or Texas. The only other scum you were with was Jimmy Garvin. You just don't know how to

pick them. I know that there are a lot of wrestlers that can take care of The Freebirds, such as Terry Taylor, The Missing Link, and The Fantastics, just to name a few. The Von Erichs proved that when The Freebirds were in Texas. Just one word of advice: Stay away from here. Texas looks a lot cleaner since you left.

Brian Adias, if you wanted to be pals with Al Madril, why did you take so long to turn your back on the Von Erichs? Why didn't you do it sooner? Isn't that what you wanted all along? You are nothing but a pure jerk. The Von Erichs are doing just fine without you. They have more class than you and that guy you call a friend.

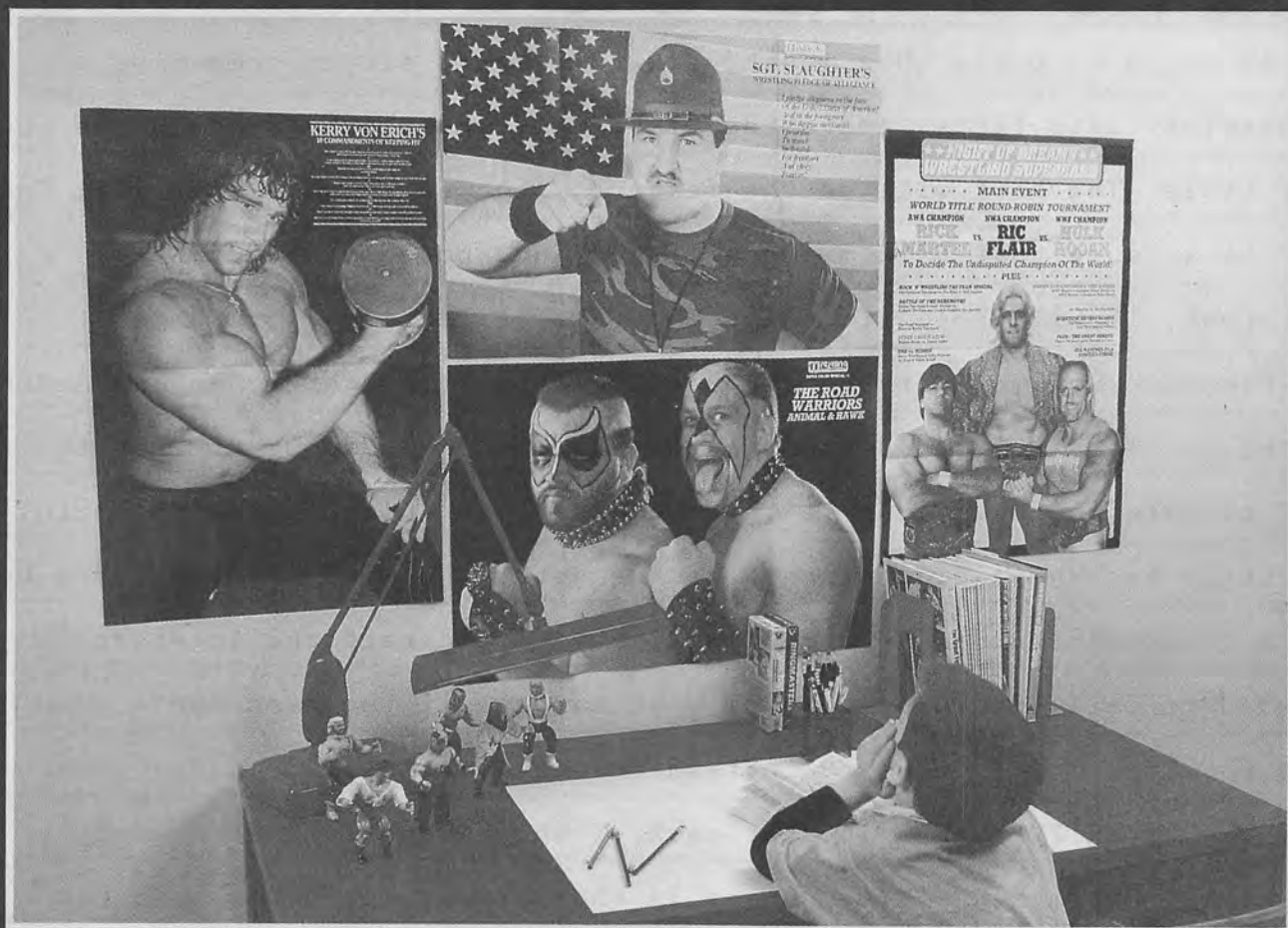
The Von Erichs deserve a better friend than you ever were. What will you do when Madril gets rid of you? The Von Erichs won't take you back. I hope you realize that as long as you are with Madril, no one in Texas cares about you. I could care less about what happens to you now. My respect for you has disappeared for good, until you straighten your butt up.

GINA MOSLEY
Ennis, TX

WWF OUTSHINES WCW

Hooray for the WWF! I've been watching professional wrestling for the last 15 years and I am ever impressed
(Continued on page 48)

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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Peter
King
Editor-in-Chief

As we go to press this month, the rumors are slowly cementing themselves into facts. Andre the Giant will wrestle Hulk Hogan for the WWF title. The bout will be the feature match at WrestleMania III. The WWF is so sure that this match will command unprecedented fan interest, it will hold it in the 90,000 seat Pontiac Silverdome.

Everyone is aware of the circumstances that brought Hogan and Andre to blows. The hatred between the two has been well documented by the WWF television shows. But is this matchup good enough to be the main event at the WWF's biggest show of the year? And will Vince McMahon be able to muster enough hype and publicity to generate the interest needed to fill 90,000 seats? And what happens if the fans *don't* come out for this bout, choosing instead to wait for the videocassette or highlights on TV? Let's look at each of these questions separately.

First, the matchup. Yes, Andre is the largest opponent Hogan has ever faced. But he's far from the toughest. Andre's best days are long behind him, and his physical condition and stamina must be questioned. Hogan, on the other hand, is in great shape, although he has never proven he has much endurance either. Neither man can wrestle scientifically, so expect a lot of kicks and punches. In my opinion, the bout will be short and boring. Don't say I didn't warn you.

Next, will the match generate interest? Yes. Enough interest to fill 90,000 seats? No. My prediction: The Silverdome will be less than half-filled for this bout.

Finally, what happens if WrestleMania III is a financial flop? For WrestleMania IV (if there is a WrestleMania IV), the WWF will finally realize that the fans want to see good, hard wrestling, not cheap gimmickry and hopeless hype. Don't say I didn't warn *them*.

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TOP SECRET

Behind the Dressing Room Door

by Stu
Saks

THE TALK OF this office—and the rest of the wrestling world for that matter—is the coming showdown between Andre the Giant and Hulk Hogan. It had not been officially announced as we went to press, but that match is expected to headline the March 29 WrestleMania III.

I've pinned down each of our staff members to a prediction on the outcome of such a match, but before I get into that, I have a little contest for you:

Predict the result of the Andre the Giant vs. Hulk Hogan title match and guess how long the match will take. The person who picks the result and gets closest to the actual time of the match will win a free year's subscription to *Inside Wrestling* and *The Wrestler*. Of course, this contest is contingent on the match taking place and applies only to their WrestleMania matchup. All entries must be postmarked by March 27. Send your predictions to: Andre-Hogan Contest, P.O. Box 48, Rockville Centre, New York, 11571.

Now, on to our staff predictions:

Craig Peters: "If the match goes 10 minutes or less, I give it to Hogan. If it goes over 10 minutes, I think Andre will win. While neither has outstanding stamina, I think Hogan is accustomed to a short night's work, and if Andre could extend him past 10 minutes, Hogan will become confused and sloppy."

Bill Apter: "Hogan. Once Hulk Hogan gets Andre off his feet, the Giant is through. Now getting a man of Andre's weight and balance off his feet is no easy task, but Hogan has long arms and he's extremely powerful, so he should be able to do it. Once on

(Continued on page 54)

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MAIL TODAY!

LARRY ZBYSZKO SWUNG his *nunchaku* sticks through the air and around his body with lightning speed. With each movement of his arms, he emitted a grunt. The *nunchakus* clicked, clacked, and clattered their way through the air in an impressive display of their handler's skill.

Minneapolis is not the place I want to be in the middle of winter. Not at all. And what's worse, it was a midweek trip; at least if I had been sent here on a Saturday I could make up for the bad weather by shooting over to the World Theater in St. Paul to see Garrison Keillor and company do *A Prairie Home Companion* for Minnesota Public Radio. No such luck.

No, no chance of ice skating on Lake Wobegon this trip. I was on a tight schedule. A late morning flight in, early dinner with Zbyszko, and a red-eye back to New York.

Bah.

"Come on, Pete, if I'm only going to be there for a day, why can't I just telephone Zbyszko?"



Mr. Saito & Larry Zbyszko

So there was Zbyszko, flip-flopping his *nunchakus* through the air, demonstrating to me his mastery of the martial arts. Oh well, at least it was better than watching him do his *tai-chi* exercises.

When Larry was through, he disappeared into the kitchen to prepare a pot of tea. I looked around his living room. Impressive, I thought. I hadn't been to Larry's house in many months, but in that short time he's amassed quite a collection of oriental rugs, sculpture, and furniture.

"There's a cleanliness of mind that is part and parcel of a schooling in the higher forms of the martial arts," Zbyszko said. He should talk about cleanliness of mind, I joked to myself. But I kept listening. And Zbyszko espoused the usual Martial Arts 101 speech about violence

ON THE ROAD

with
CRAIG PETERS

as defense only, mental conditioning being as important as physical conditioning, and that special attitude that comes with a schooling in the oriental philosophies.

Maybe it was because I'd heard that speech so many times before, or maybe it was because I know better when it comes from a guy like Zbyszko, or maybe it was that I wished I *had* telephoned Zbyszko instead of flying to Minneapolis—whatever the reason, my attention span was getting short, so I

changed the subject. "Tell me about Mr. Saito," I said. Suddenly, Zbyszko became a little less talkative and a little more guarded. "What do you want to know?" he asked, clearly concerned about questions I might have regarding Saito's recent incarceration.

Yes, Saito had just completed his jail term, a debt to society incurred when he and Ken Patera became involved in a scuffle with Waukesha, Wisconsin, police in the summer of 1985, and sentenced to two years in prison in June of that year. Saito was recently released and has returned to the AWA. Under the guidance of Zbyszko, he is teaming with Super Ninja in tag matches throughout the AWA.

"Just tell me about Saito," I encouraged, "his attitude, especially. How's it been for him since coming back to the AWA?"

Zbyszko smiled the kind of smile that told me there was a lot that he *could* have said, but that he was just going to say what he *wanted* to say, and that's that.

"Mr. Saito is bitter, he's angry, and he's got a lot of pent-up frustrations in his soul that he's ready to unleash against an unwitting AWA," Zbyszko said. "Sure he was in jail, but that's all behind him now. He's spent his time working his physique, working in the prison gym. He's in better shape than he was two years ago."

Then Zbyszko told me he had several appointments to go to, and that he would have to cut our meeting short. "Before you go, though, I have something for you."

Oh good, I thought, a souvenir of my visit to ice land, and I don't mean Reykjavik.

"Here you go, Craig. Enjoy. Gotta go, now, come back anytime to visit. Bye!"

Zbyszko shoved a package in my hand and shunted me toward the front door. Once outside in the bitter wind, I opened the "gift"—a videotape of Zbyszko's "In This Corner" segments from AWA broadcasts, and a copy of his "Boo On Me" record.

I'm going to talk to Peter King and see if maybe I can't change the name of my column from "On The Road" to "On The Phone In The Office."

Bah.

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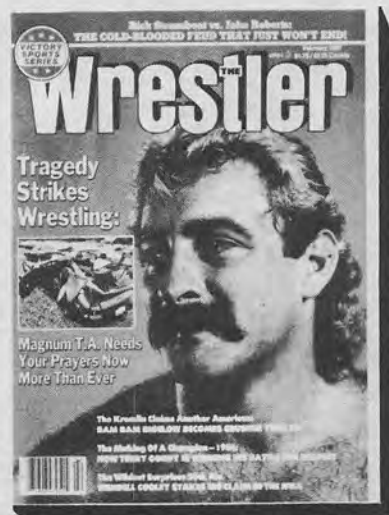
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NAMES MAKING

WrestleMania III, scheduled for March 29 at the Pontiac Silverdome in Detroit, is coming up quickly, and as of press time, it looks like the main event will be **Andre the Giant** against WWF World heavyweight champion **Hulk Hogan**.

And if there were any doubts, they were squelched on a recent segment of "Piper's Pit." Hogan came on with host **Roddy Piper**, and **Jesse Ventura** shocked everybody when he



ANDRE & HULK HOGAN

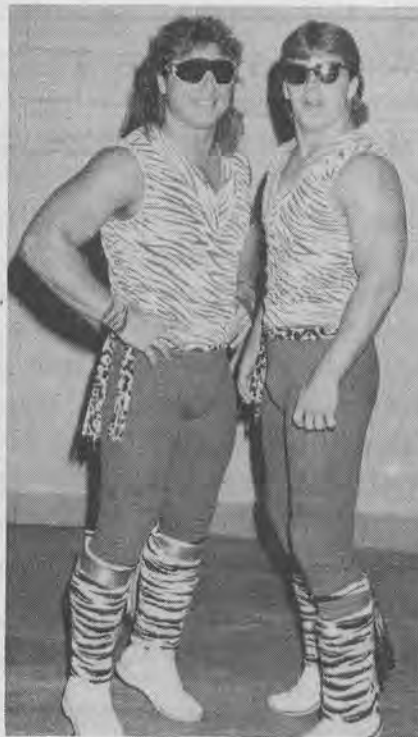
brought on **Andre the Giant** with **Bobby "The Brain" Heenan**. The look on the faces of Piper and Hogan was priceless, but the best was yet to come.

Heenan said that Andre was given a "crummy trophy" for being undefeated and that Hogan is always trying to steal the spotlight. Heenan then announced that Andre wants a shot at the title and he will represent the 7'5" 22-year veteran. Hogan, who idolizes Andre, begged his hero not to go with Heenan. Andre responded by ripping off Hogan's Hulkamania shirt and

walked off the set. Hulk, whose chest was cut when Andre grabbed his cross, was near tears and said that he couldn't believe what was going on.

The following week it was just Hogan and Piper on "Piper's Pit," and Rowdy Roddy finally asked the champ the big question: "Will you give Andre the Giant a title shot?" Hogan said that he would.

The Midnight Rockers beat the clock! We warned **Shawn Michaels** and **Marty Jannetty** that time was running out for them in their quest to



THE MIDNIGHT ROCKERS

win the AWA World tag team title, and before they could even read the article (see page 42), they went out and defeated **Buddy Rose** and **Doug Somers** at the Met Center in St. Paul. The match ended at about the 15-minute mark when the Rockers double-drokkicked Rose out of the ring and then went after Somers. Michaels picked up Somers by the back of the

legs and Jannetty came in with a perfectly executed flying bodypress off the ropes for the win.

On the same card, **Jimmy Snuka** lost a coal miner's glove match to archival **Col. DeBeers**. Snuka threw DeBeers out of the ring and took the glove off the top of the pole. He was



JIMMY SNUKA

about to use it on the South African when **Boris Zuhov** interfered. Snuka knocked him out with the glove, but DeBeers had a surprise of his own. He climbed back into the ring, took another glove out of his trunks, and slugged Snuka.

The NWA has announced the top 10 seedings for the second annual \$1 million Jim Crockett Sr. Memorial Tag Team tournament to be held this year on consecutive days, April 9 and 10, at the Baltimore Arena (formerly known as the Baltimore Civic Center). With 14 teams still to be announced, the seedings are as follows: NWA World tag team champs **Manny Fernandez** and **Rick Rude** are the first seed, followed by **Dusty Rhodes** and **Nikita Koloff**. Last year's winners, **The Road Warriors**, are number three, followed by **The Rock 'n' Roll Express** and a team from Japan,

N' NEWS

Bill Apter
reporting...



THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS

Hiroshi Wajima and **Shohei Baba**. **The Midnight Express**, **Ole** and **Arn Anderson**, **Tully Blanchard** and **Lex Luger**, Central States champions **The M.O.D. Squad**, and **Ivan Koloff** and **Vladimir Petrov** round out the top 10. Conspicuous by their absence are the U.S. tag team champions, **Barry Windham** and **Ronnie Garvin**. Windham was locked in negotiations for a title match with **Ric Flair** as we went to press and would not be able to enter the tournament if the match was made.

By the way, **Magnum T.A.** took a few steps with the aid of a walker and seems to be getting better every day. Magnum says that he's going to walk out of the hospital on his own and I wouldn't put it past him. He has a message for his fans in the June issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*; look for the bearded Magnum on the cover.

Stan Hansen is in Puerto Rico in hot pursuit of **Carlos Colon's** World Wrestling Council title. We haven't seen much of Hansen since he forfeited the AWA World championship to **Nick Bockwinkel** last June 29... **Scott Hall** is in Florida and has al-

ready targeted Florida champion **Bad News Allen** and Southern champion **Kevin Sullivan**... The *Saturday Night's Main Event* aired on January 3 drew the largest rating of any show in that time period since March 1981—a 10.8 rating and a 29 share.

Hacksaw Duggan has left the UWF, so the tag team belts still officially held by Duggan and **Terry Taylor** will be put up for grabs in a tournament scheduled for February 7 in Fort Worth, Texas. These are the first-round matchups: **Steve Williams** and **Ted DiBiase** vs. **Bill Irwin** and **Eli The Eliminator**; **Iceman Parsons** and **Chris Adams** vs. **Michael Hayes** and **Buddy Roberts**; **Terry Gordy** and **Angel of Death** vs. **Terry Taylor** and **Sam Houston**; and **Chavo Guerrero** and **The Missing Link** vs. **Rick Steiner** and **Sting**. That last match should be interesting because **Dark Journey**, **Missy Hyatt**, and **Eddie Gilbert** will be at ringside.

Here's an interesting bit of gossip from the UWF. Many of the fan favorites are reportedly disgusted with Terry Taylor, who has turned into quite a braggart recently. Said one anonymous wrestler, "Terry keeps talking about all these girls he has and what a great wrestler he is, but where's the evidence?"

Ray Stevens is coming out of retirement to team with AWA World champion **Nick Bockwinkel**. Stevens and Bockwinkel are former AWA tag team champs... Mid-Southern champ **Jerry Lawler**, who was seriously injured by **Tommy Rich** and **Austin Idol**, hasn't been seen for some time. His career might indeed be over... An interesting feud has developed in the WWF between **Paul Roma** and **Steve Lombardi**. These men aren't superstars by any means,

but who said losers can't get angry?

Big news from the Continental area: **Exotic Adrian Street** won **Brenda Britton** from **Rip Rogers** in a loser-loses-valet match. Britton now comes to the ring with Street and **Miss Linda** has to brush their hair and hold the ropes for them.

Lex Luger reportedly went to the World Championship area because he was upset that Florida officials would not reverse the decision that gave an undeserving **Kevin Sullivan** his



KEVIN SULLIVAN

Southern championship. In that match, Luger was on the defensive most of the way but finally turned the tide and started beating on Sullivan. Referee **Bill Alfonso** tried to force a break, but Luger pushed him out of the way. When Alfonso went down, **Sir Oliver Humperdink** handed Sullivan a steel spike.

Luger tried to go back on the attack, but Sullivan hit him in the throat with the spike. Luger went down, but his legs were under the ropes as Sullivan covered him. Alfonso did not see that Humperdink was holding Luger's legs and Sullivan scored the pin. The following day, Luger showed up in the World Championship area.

That's all for now, fans! See you at the matches! □



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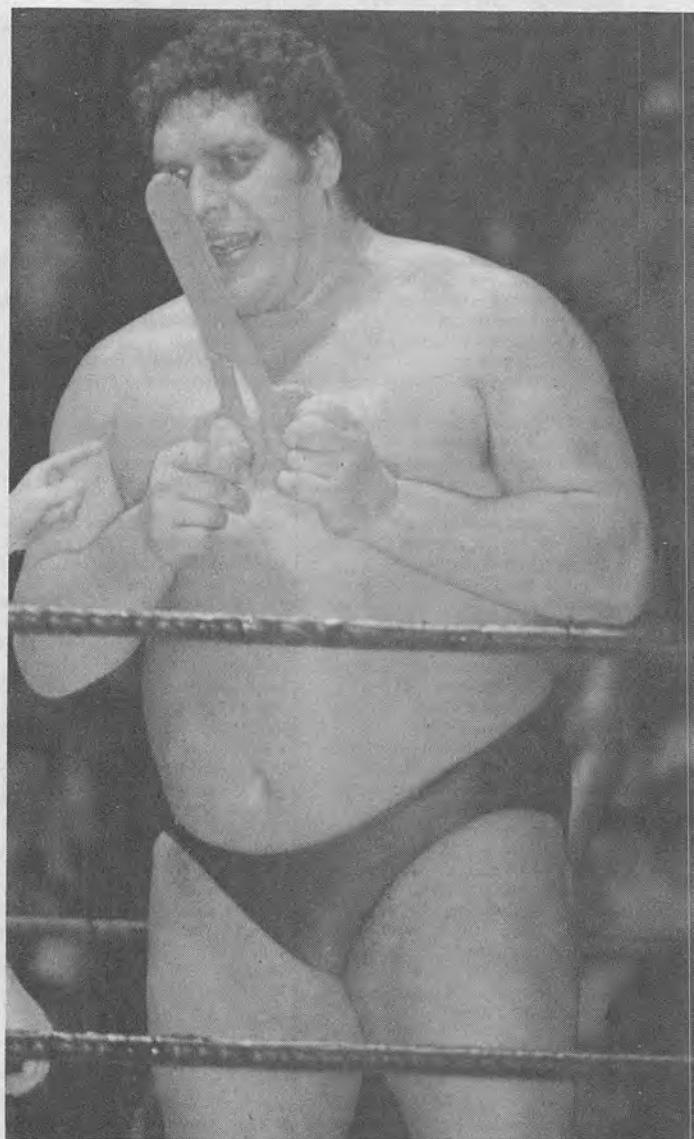
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THE **INSIDER**

By **Eddie Ellner**



When his undefeated streak began, Andre the Giant was considerably slimmer (above). About a hundred pounds later, Andre may be cutting that streak short (right) by pushing for a match against WWF World champion Hulk Hogan.



[The opinions expressed in "The Insider" are those of Eddie Ellner alone, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of anyone else on this magazine.]

JUDGING FROM THE antics of the last several weeks, it appears, barring celebrity intervention, that Andre the Giant will face Hulk Hogan in the main event of

WrestleMania III on March 29. The good news is that after two decades of hype and hyperbole, Andre the Giant—allegedly undefeated, certainly overrated—will finally get his title shot.

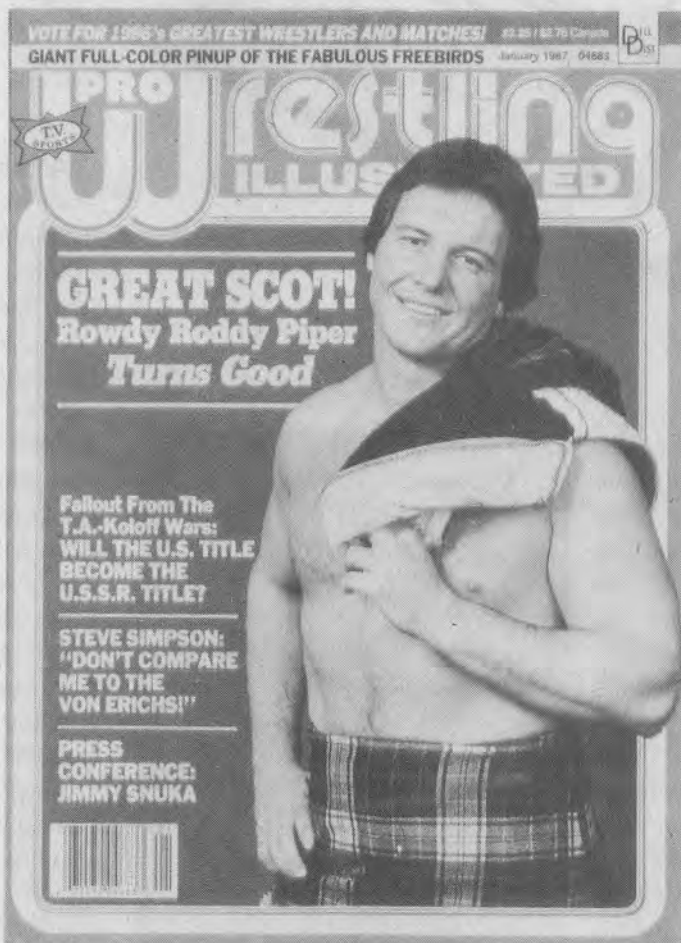
This should halt the moonlighting Andre has done recently as a masked wrestler in an attempt to dupe everyone into thinking the 7'5", 600-pound giant was some-

one else. (I must decline the WWF's official weight of Andre. He passed the 497-pound barrier about a half-ton of chocolate mousse ago.)

This should also unmask, so to speak, the shroud of mystery surrounding Andre's superhuman capabilities. Wrestling fans expecting to see a replay of the vicious,

(Continued on page 56)

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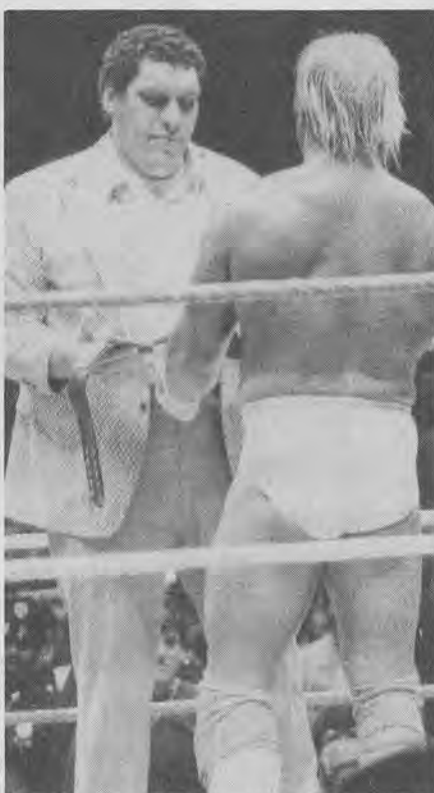
with David Rosenbaum

THE HYPOCRISY OFTEN displayed by professional journalists, editors in particular, is most clearly stated in the opening paragraph of a sidebar in this month's issue of *The Wrestler* under the headline "Hogan vs. Andre: An Oddsmaker's Predictions."

The paragraph reads: "Odds are not intended to be the basis of any gambling activity, but simply a starting point for informed discussion among fans." Right. Let's get one thing straight before we go on: Odds are very much intended to be the basis of gambling activity and gambling activity is the basis of almost every major sport.

Football, basketball, and baseball would not be so popular if not for gambling. The governing bodies of each of these sports should be located in Las Vegas, Nevada. Some might say that they already are. Wrestling, of course, is not a heavy betting sport, but according to a bookie friend in New York, the upcoming Andre the Giant vs. Hulk Hogan WWF World title match might be the sports betting event of the year.

This, by any account, is a matchup of two wrestling superstars. Hulk Hogan, the incredibly



Andre the Giant covets Hulk Hogan's WWF World title belt. After 22 years in the sport, Andre is finally getting a shot at the title. Assistant Editor Dave Rosenbaum sets odds for the upcoming match.

popular champion, is now in his fourth year as WWF World titleholder and has methodically disposed of all competition. Paul Orndorff, Hercules Hernandez, Randy Savage, Kamala, and others, have all discovered that they are no match for this physically awesome specimen.

Andre the Giant, a 22-year veteran of the sport, has never lost by pinfall but still has never been granted a shot at the WWF World title. He's getting old and worn down physically (he grimaced as he bent over to pick the belt up off the mat at a recent Madison Square Garden show), but at 7'5" and almost 500 pounds, Andre is an incredible sight and still impossible to pin. Almost seven years ago, Andre pinned Hogan at Shea Stadium.

Admar Harrar, the oddsmaker commissioned by *The Wrestler*, sets the odds for this match at 5-2 in favor of Hogan, and notes that "Andre has slowed considerably, gained weight, and suffered several injuries" while Hogan "has grown stronger, gained muscle definition, and has the added confidence of the WWF title behind him."

But oddsmakers tend to be a rather unemotional bunch and Harrar has failed to take into account several intangibles. The first is that Hulk *can't* pin Andre. Hogan might be strong, but he'll never get Andre on the mat for a three-count. The second factor is Andre's great motivation. He's mad, and rightfully feels that he has been denied title shots. Andre is ready to take his anger out on Hogan, and I wouldn't want to be in Hulk's boots.

So, this match must be approached from a number of different angles, especially since the final contract hadn't been drawn

(Continued on page 52)

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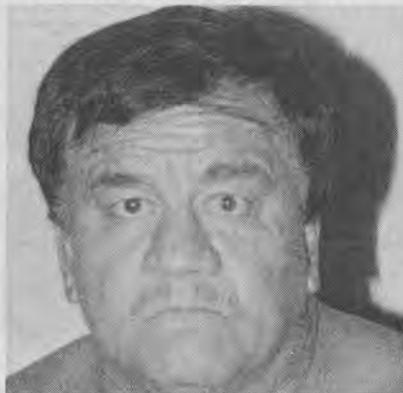
... YOU Can Do It Too!

NEWS FROM THE

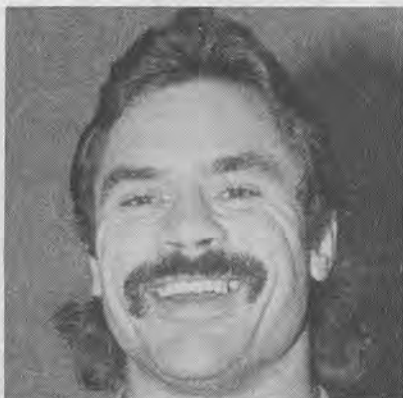
If you would like your area of the country represented in these reports, while also being officially credited with your own by-line, send us reports of the matches you attend. You will have the thrill of seeing your name in an internationally known magazine while at the same time helping to improve the quality of wrestling in your area. So why not give it a try? You will be glad you did!

Send your reports to: Correspondent Editor, Box 48, Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11571

ROSEMONT, IL By Joe Duran



WAHOO McDANIEL
vs.
RICK RUDE



Rude and Wahoo traded head shots, until Wahoo's persistence gave him an edge. Rude gained the advantage when he whipped Wahoo into the turnbuckles, but Wahoo soon chopped his way into the lead. McDaniel was declared the winner when the newest "bald-headed geek," Paul Jones, interfered on behalf of Rude at the eight-minute mark.

OTHER BOUTS: Road Warrior Animal won the 25-man, \$50,000 bunkhouse stampede ... Dusty Rhodes & Nikita Koloff beat Ric Flair & Tully Blanchard ... The Road Warriors demolished The Midnight Express ... The Rock 'n' Roll Express defeated Ivan Koloff & Krusher Khrushchev ... Brad Armstrong and Jimmy Garvin battled to a time-limit draw ... Tim Horner pinned Shaska Whatley.

CLEVELAND, OH By Alex Slemc



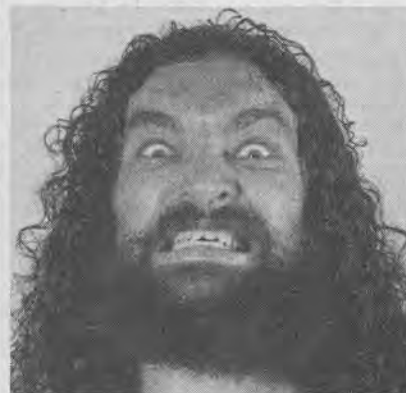
HULK HOGAN
vs.
KAMALA



This match for Hogan's WWF World title was an unexpectedly even battle. Hogan, drawing strength from the cheering crowd, went on the offensive, decking the heavier Kamala with several elbowsmashes and clotheslines. When Hogan went for the pin, Kamala's manager, The Wizard, interfered, and the Ugandan was disqualified.

OTHER BOUTS: Blackjack Mulligan pinned Nikolai Volkoff in 13 seconds ... Hercules Hernandez beat Cpl. Kirchner ... The Hart Foundation defeated The Rougeaus ... Dick Slater beat Iron Sheik by disqualification ... Sika pinned Moondog Spot ... Lanny Poffo defeated Jimmy Jack Funk ... Fabulous Moolah pinned Lelani Kai.

MONTREAL, QUEBEC By Bill Marchesin



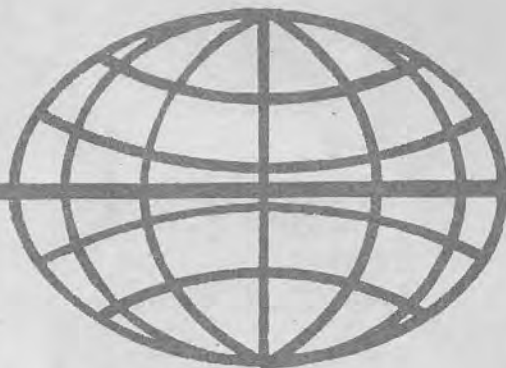
BRUISER BRODY
vs.
ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER



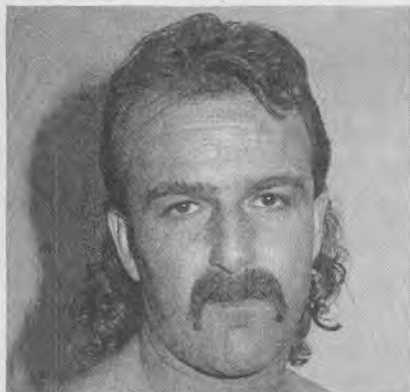
The fans gave Abdullah a standing ovation as he made a popular return to Montreal to wrestle the wild Bruiser Brody, Eddy Creatchman's new bounty hunter. Brody attacked Abdullah before the bell and threw the Sudanese madman to the floor, where he beat him with a chair and the timekeeper's table. When Brody was disqualified, he knocked the ref out and left the ring to punch and kick the bloody Butcher.

OTHER BOUTS: David Shultz defeated Hercules Ayala by disqualification ... Candi Divine beat Judy Grable ... Dan Kroffat, Armand Rougeau, & Neil Guay battled Sheik Ali, Dick Charland, & Gilles "Fish" Poisson to a no-contest ... Gino Brito Jr. & Tony Parisi beat Bob & Rocky Delaserra.

WRESTLING CAPITALS



SCRANTON, PA By Mark Ritter



**JAKE ROBERTS
vs.
GEORGE STEELE**



"The Snake" Roberts and "The Animal" Steele met at the Catholic Youth Center in, appropriately, a cage match. Steele drew first blood by banging Roberts' head into the cage. But after Roberts retaliated, both wrestlers became a bloody mess. After a long war, Roberts pulled his snake out of its bag. Steele, unintimidated, gave one mighty chop to Roberts and walked out of the cage for the win.

OTHER BOUTS: The Can-Am Connection pinned Greg Valentine & Brutus Beefcake ... Tito Santana drew with Hercules Hernandez ... Sika beat Moondog Spot ... Outback Jack defeated Terry Gibbs ... Tom Magee pinned The Demon ... Scott McGhee beat Barry O.

AMARILLO, TX By J.D. Woodall



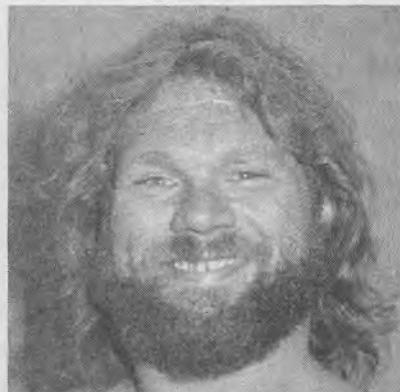
**RICKY ROMERO
vs.
JAMES J. DILLON**



"Rapid" Ricky Romero and J.J. Dillon resumed a long-forgotten feud at the Amarillo Civic Center. Dillon attempted to end the match in a hurry by using a foreign object, but "Rapid" Ricky fought back with kicks and suplexes. Using pressure holds, Dillon nearly pinned Romero several times. Romero, however, dazzled Dillon with the way he moved about the ring and pinned the manager at the 10-minute mark.

OTHER BOUTS: Ric Flair beat Dusty Rhodes by disqualification ... The Road Warriors defeated The Midnight Express ... Tully Blanchard and Nikita Koloff wrestled to a draw ... Dick Murdoch defeated Ivan Koloff ... Rick Youngblood pinned Ted Heath ... Mark Youngblood beat Don Fargo.

NEW ORLEANS, LA By Peggy Alford



**HACKSAW DUGGAN
vs.
ONE MAN GANG**



In this UWF championship match, both men were connected by a steel chain tied to one wrist. To win, a wrestler had to drag his opponent to all four corners of the ring. Duggan did this, but the referee didn't see it because he had been knocked out. The champion, One Man Gang, injured Duggan with his "747 splash" and took him around to all four corners to retain the title.

OTHER BOUTS: Terry Taylor & Savannah Jack beat Wild Bill Irwin & Bad Leroy Brown ... Ted DiBiase pinned Mike George ... Terry Taylor defeated Jack Victory ... Savannah Jack beat Sting ... Art Crews defeated Gustavo Mendoza.



Matt Brock's **PLAIN SPEAKING**

NEW YORK, NY: I've never been one for pretty-boy wrestlers, but I've been around long enough to know a hit when I see one and I saw one tonight at Madison Square Garden. The Can-Am Connection has all the tools to make it big in today's wrestling environment. In case you didn't know (and by now, everybody should), the Can-Am Connection is former AWA World champion Rick Martel and former Pacific Northwest heavyweight champ Tom Zenk.



TOM ZENK & RICK MARTEL

And the 16-year-old bleached blonde, fully made-up girl sitting next to me (what are the young kids doing to themselves these days?) said that they're "absolutely gorgeous." Well, I don't know much about "gorgeous" men, and I'm not sure that looks should be the credentials to make it in this business, but apparently that's the way it is. Anyway, Martel and Zenk are pretty talented wrestlers, and they've managed to keep their bodies in excellent shape. These guys are obviously dedicated to their craft

because their array of maneuvers is very impressive. The crowd at the Garden this night was pretty hot, and they were hottest for Hulk Hogan and the Can-Ams. I ran into Associate Editor Craig Peters during the intermission and he told me that these guys are going to be McMahon's Rock 'n' Roll Express. I agree, but they might be even better because they're more talented. And this girl sitting next to me, who by the way seems to have seen every wrestler in the country, said that they're better looking than the Rock 'n' Rolls. By the way, the crowd had the nerve to boo Andre the Giant and I'd say more about that, but it might take a whole column. I also saw Assistant Editors Dave Rosenbaum and Eddie Ellner at the Garden and I know that they're going to be discussing the Andre-Hogan situation in their columns.

ATLANTA, GA: The big news down here is that Lex Luger, who just came to the World Championship area, wants to join The Four Horsemen, and I don't see what the big commotion is all about. First of all, Luger is old enough to make his own decisions, and second of all, he'll have plenty of chances to learn from his mistakes. The man is young, he's a baby, and he's only been in the sport for a little over a year. Besides, I think it's downright offensive when a guy like Barry Windham, who has signed with countless federations, only to leave them in the dust, has the nerve to give Luger career guidance. Windham fails to realize that Luger was a rule-breaker when he first came into wrestling and did very well as one. He became Southern champion as a rulebreaker. Now, I'm not saying that Luger shouldn't be going after the NWA World title, but the way things look now, Windham is going to win the belt from Flair, and then Luger can have all the title shots he wants. Give the guy a break, Windham, and worry about your own career. And besides, during my years covering this beat, I've no-

Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor



BARRY WINDHAM & LEX LUGER

ticed that most wrestlers don't look out for the good of their peers. Windham doesn't want Luger to join the Horsemen, because that would give Windham more problems. Windham, of course, already knows what it's like to be in opposition to Lex Luger.

LOS ANGELES, CA: Yeah, I was here for the INTV convention for independent television and the only person who knew it was Bill Apter. While Peters was out doing the town with former Assistant Editor Joe Bua, Bill and I were getting down to some serious wrestling talk in the hotel bar. Now Apter is a good man, although he doesn't drink, which is something I just don't understand. There are three ways I judge a journalist: how fair he is, how many miles he's logged, and how well he drinks. Apter's pretty fair and he's logged a few hundred thousand miles in his day, but the man just doesn't drink. Then I asked him if he wanted to meet for breakfast the next day and he told me he doesn't eat breakfast. I'll tell you one thing, he sure does use the phone a lot. Anyway, we had a few hours to talk about the sport and one thing we both agreed on was how much things have changed. I've been around much longer than Apter, so I would notice the difference, but even Bill, who's still a rookie by my standards, says that the sport has totally changed. Fifteen years ago, a guy like Hogan

would never have gone over at Madison Square Garden the way he has today. People wonder why Hogan didn't make it real big in the AWA, and the reason is simple. The environment wasn't right, although Hogan kind of made his own environment. McMahon changed everything, that's for sure, and I'm not sure I like it or not. Bill says he liked it better the way things were, and so do I. But then again, we're all creatures of habit. And then again, maybe things haven't changed. Maybe we have.

ST. PAUL, MN: Here's one place where things haven't changed at all. In the ol' American Wrestling Association, where things are just the way they were 10, 15, even 20 years ago. Even the World champion, Nick Bockwinkel, is the same guy who was World champion 13 years ago, although there

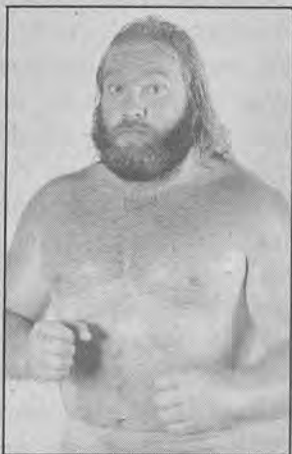


CURT HENNIG & NICK BOCKWINKEL

have been a few switches back and forth since then. Now here's a real wrestler, a real gamer in every sense of the word. Bockwinkel doesn't rely on cheap gimmicks and wrestling dolls. He's a wrestler. When you buy a ticket to see Nick Bockwinkel, you know that you're getting your money's worth. People say that he's too old to be champion, but, hey, he's champion and he's beaten some pretty good young guys to stay on top. He turned in one gutsy effort against that kid Curt Hennig and walked out of the ring with the belt still strapped around his waist. Here's to you, Nicky. □

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

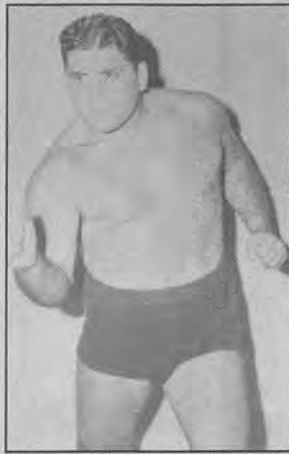
Do you have a favorite wrestler who has left your area? Are you wondering where he is today? Then this special column is just for you. Each month we will update the whereabouts of four current or former wrestlers



BIG JOHN STUDD

John Studd, who calls himself the "only true giant of wrestling" (he's feuded for years with Andre the Giant over that argument) has decided to take a hiatus from the ring for a few months to follow up on several offers from Hollywood televi-

sion and movie producers. Studd has already appeared in an episode of NBC's *Hunter*, and has a major role in the upcoming Disney film *Double Agent*. He will probably resume his ring career by the summer.



ANGELO SAVOLDI

In the early '50s, Angelo Savoldi was revered as a superb grappler, and would go on to capture the NWA World junior heavyweight crown. In the early '60s, he was road manager for the legendary Antonino Rocca. In the '70s,

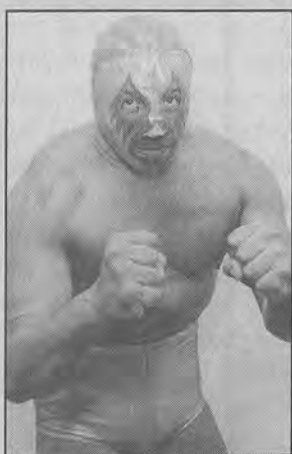
Savoldi held an executive position with the WWF, and worked for several federations as an East Coast adviser. Today, at age 69, Angelo is out of the sport and is the owner of a Mobil station in Parsippany, New Jersey.



BABY DOLL

It's been a rocky year for Baby Doll. After leaving Dusty Rhodes, her short-lived association with Ric Flair and The Four Horsemen was followed by a managerial post with The Warlord in the Central States area. But that partner-

ship seems to have disintegrated, and Baby Doll is currently negotiating with the UWF to obtain a managerial contract and to become involved in UWF broadcasts as a semi-regular commentator.



MIL MASCARAS

The legendary Mexican star, whose name literally means "man of 1,000 masks," continues to tour the globe and thrill fans with his state-of-the-art high-flying maneuvers. Mascaras' latest goal is the World Wrestling Council North American title, defended in Puerto Rico and currently held by the despised Bob Heffernan.

Mascaras is also working on a new film for Mexican audiences in which he will play the starring role.

INSIDE WRESTLING

130

CAPSULE PROFILE

ROCKY JOHNSON

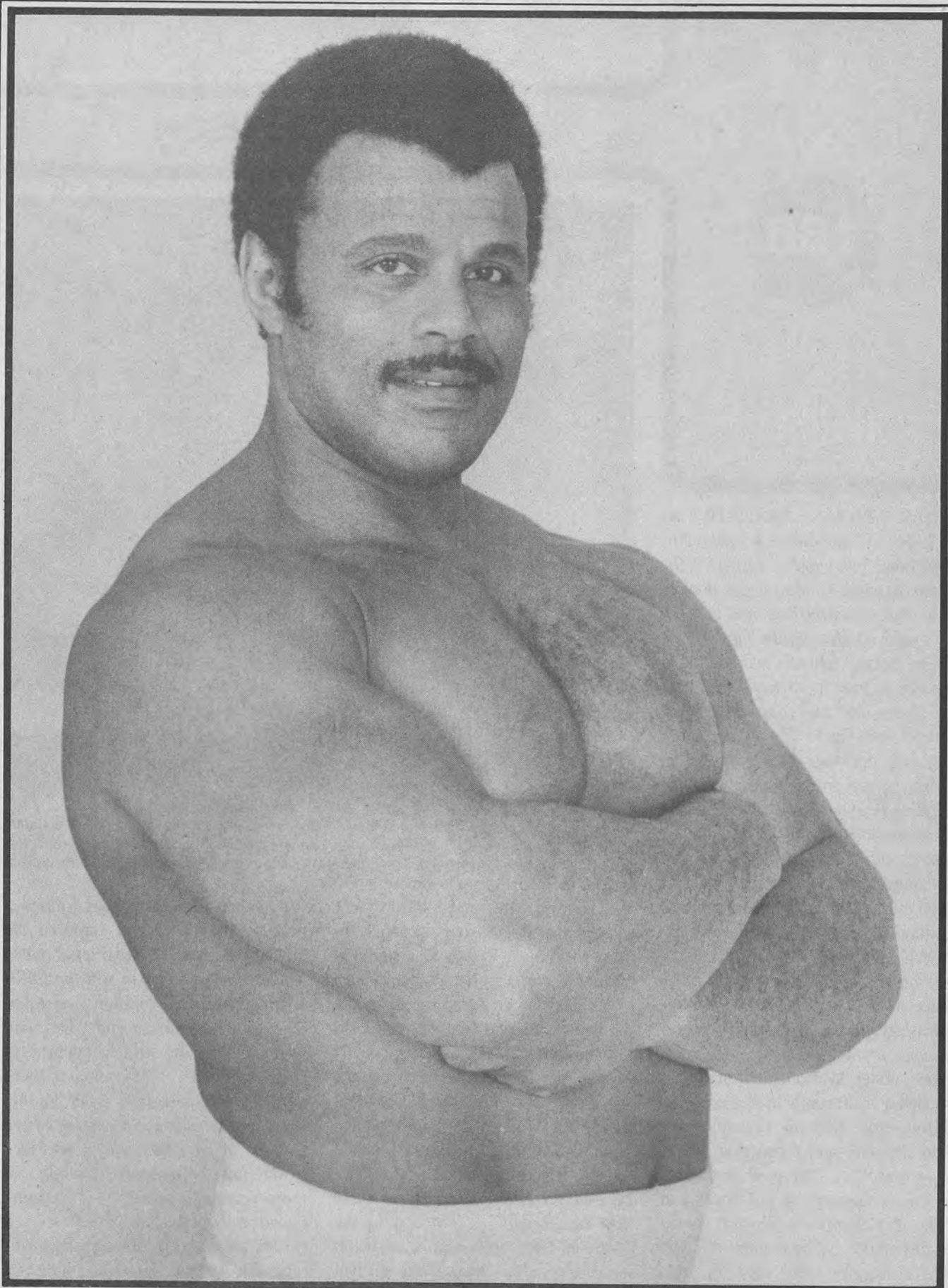


THIS VETERAN GRAPPLER has been a favorite of the fans throughout his lengthy career (*"The fans have always enjoyed my no-nonsense style of wrestling, and I've always enjoyed pleasing the fans"*) ... A former boxer, Johnson worked as a sparring partner for heavyweight boxing champions Muhammad Ali and George Foreman (*"The hand speed and foot movement I developed in boxing helped me immensely in the wrestling ring"*) ... Was undefeated in 28 professional fights (*"I've always been proud of my boxing record, but I've always preferred wrestling"*) ... Broke into wrestling through the aid of two-time former NWA World champion Whipper Billy Watson (*"Whipper saw me working out in a gym in Toronto, where I was living at the time, and asked me if I ever considered becoming a wrestler"*) ... Johnson trained under Watson, and made his pro debut in Toronto in the mid-'60s (*"I remember that my opponent was Firpo Zbyszko, and I defeated him in 47 seconds!"*) ... Wrestled in Canada for a time, then moved to Detroit, and finally to California, where he gained his first major national fame (*"I won the Los Angeles battle royal in 1970 and formed a tag team with Mil Mascaras—those were great days!"*) ... Mascaras and Johnson held the Ameri-

cas tag team belts, and Johnson went on to defeat Ray Stevens in San Francisco to capture the U.S. championship (*"Me and Ray, we had a helluva feud"*) ... Also captured the Americas tag belts with partners Pat Patterson and Pepper Gomez as partners (*"I wrestled alongside some great men, I'll say that, and I'm proud of that record"*) ... Toured the South Pacific, Japan, and returned to the U.S. in the mid-'70s where he settled in the Florida area (*"I had a brutal feud there with Ivan Koloff"*) ... Moved to the WWF in late 1982 and was a top contender for the Intercontinental belt held by Magnificent Muraco (*"In a fair match, I could have taken Muraco, but I guess that's asking a bit much"*)

... Johnson and Tony Atlas formed a team in the WWF and captured the tag team belts (*"We had a great match against The Samoans to win the title—what a day!"*) ... Johnson and Atlas' title reign came to an end when they were defeated by Adrian Adonis and Dick Murdoch ... Johnson has spent most of the past few years touring Japan and wrestling in Hawaii (*"I have a home in Honolulu, and it was nice to stay near home for a while after all those years of traveling"*) ... Recently signed a contract to wrestle in the Florida area, and is looking forward to returning to the Sunshine State (*"I know I still have a lot of fans there, and I'm looking forward to seeing them all again soon."*) □

CAPSULE PROFILE PINUP



ROCKY JOHNSON



Nice Girls Finish Last: **WHY SUNSHINE HAS JOINED THE FREEBIRDS**

Sunshine escorts Freebird Michael Hayes to the ring. Since joining up with The Freebirds, Sunshine has changed her ways. She is no longer the manager World Class fans could rely on to guide their favorite wrestlers to victory.



THE PRESS CONFERENCE convened on time, which, given the nature of the participants, was quite unexpected. On one side of the microphone were The Freebirds—Michael Hayes and Terry Gordy seated, Buddy Roberts standing between them. Sunshine stood in front of the microphone. The Angel of Death, the team's latest weapon, hovered protectively next to her.

Sunshine's clean good looks appeared weary. Her sparkling eyes drooped slightly and her neck was uncharacteristically dirty. "Comes with the territory," commented one reporter from a Dallas daily. "Hang out with scum, you're bound to get filthy."

"I heard that you little geek," screamed Hayes. He leaped over the podium into the frightened school of reporters and grabbed the erring

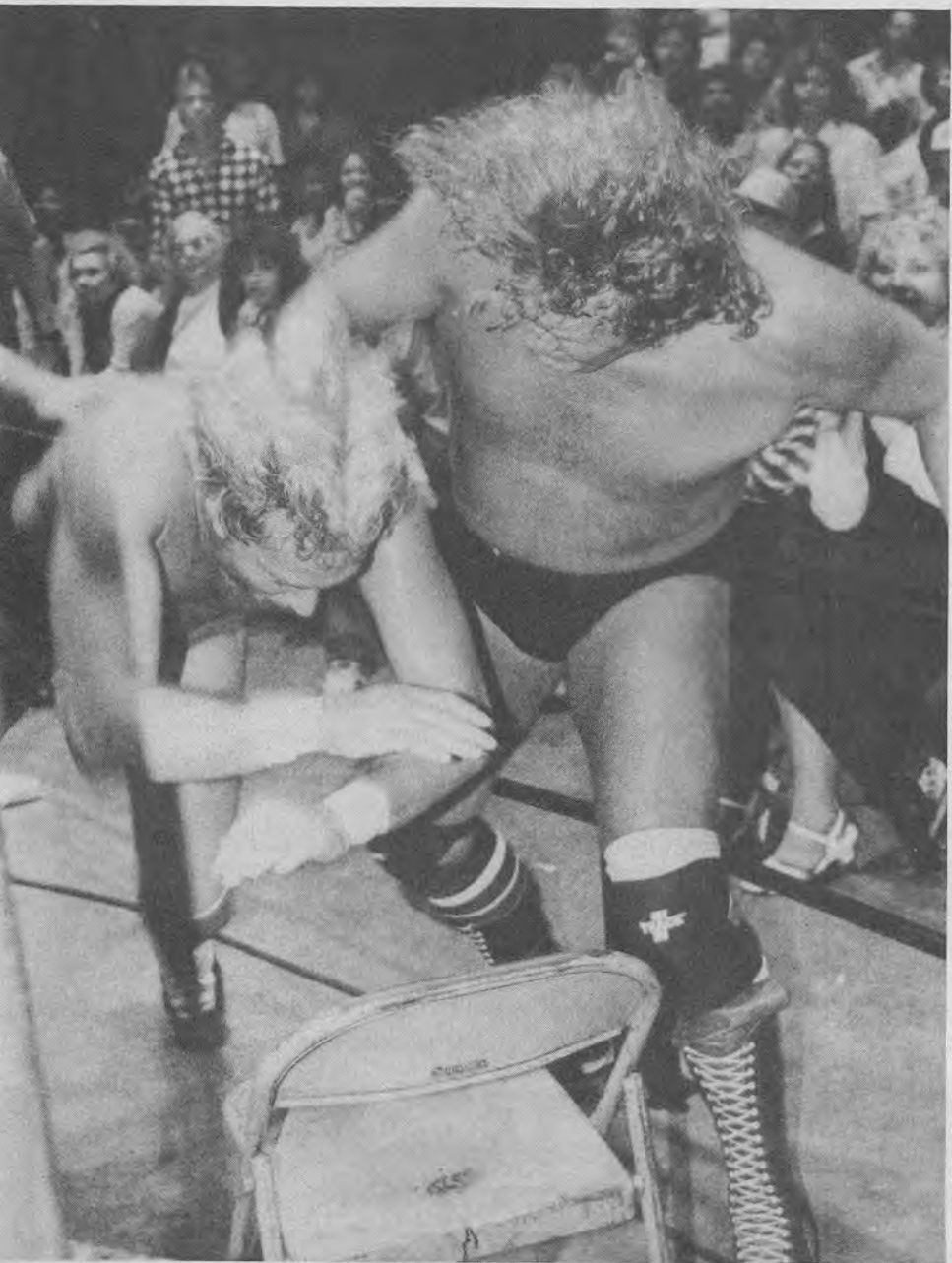
spokesman. "You got something to say now, mouthpiece?" Hayes shrieked. He hoisted the terrified scribe over his head and hurled him to the ground. Papers, eyeglasses, pens, and keys scattered. The reporter left his possessions and scrambled for his life.

Hayes put on the reporter's glasses and mimicked. "Hang out with scum, you're bound to get filthy," he yelled. "Anyone else think that way? Huh?"

While her fans across the country plead "say it ain't so," Sunshine appears to be committed to her new association with one of the world's most notorious outfits, The Fabulous Freebirds!



She's not exactly a manager and not exactly a valet, but Sunshine does watch every match very carefully (above). Ted DiBiase tries to brace himself as Terry Gordy rams him into a chair (below). Gordy's wrestling has taken on new purpose since Sunshine came to his team.



Any of you pencil pushers think that way?" If anyone else did, they were keeping such thoughts to themselves. Hayes climbed back up on stage. He glanced over at Sunshine, who throughout the outburst had kept her eyes lowered to the ground; now she returned his gaze with a short smile. "Let the questioning begin," he cried.

The meek brigade of reporters clamored for attention. First the obvious queries: "Sunshine, what made you side with these, er, with The Fabulous Freebirds? Was it money? How much did they offer you?"

"Nothing. It had nothing to do with money. I got plenty of money."

"Was it a falling out with the Von Erichs that made you leave the World Class and turned you into a bitter woman?"

"Nope. Got nothing against the Von Erich family. In fact, I spent Christmas out at the ranch with the boys." (Terry Gordy holds his nose as if in response to an attacking skunk. Buddy Roberts makes an obscene gesture with his hand).

"Well, we give up then. How come a committed do-gooder like yourself, a champion of just causes for so long, would suddenly cavort with a trio of known felons like these guys?" Hayes growled in response and the reporter took a step back, but there was no altercation.

Sunshine glanced around the room, into the eyes of reporters who'd known her for years. She stared sideways at Hayes and Roberts and Gordy (Gordy was now making elongated tongue faces at the crowd) and over quickly at the menacing Angel of Death. Then she spoke. "All my life, fellas, I've been, like you said, a do-gooder. Whenever something was wrong, everyone always said, 'Quick, let's get Sunshine, she'll help out.' When I got into wrestling, it was with Jimmy Garvin and he was a rulebreaker. But I loved him and it didn't matter. I would have done anything for that man. We were successful. And I had fun."

"When I dumped Jimmy and embraced this good Samaritan life, every-



These days, Sunshine isn't above interfering in matches. She pulls Steve Williams' hair during a match with Buddy Roberts (above left). Buddy is helped by Sunshine after being thrown out of the ring (below left). Sunshine says she was tired of losing with fan favorites. The only way to get to the top, she says, was to side with men like The Freebirds.

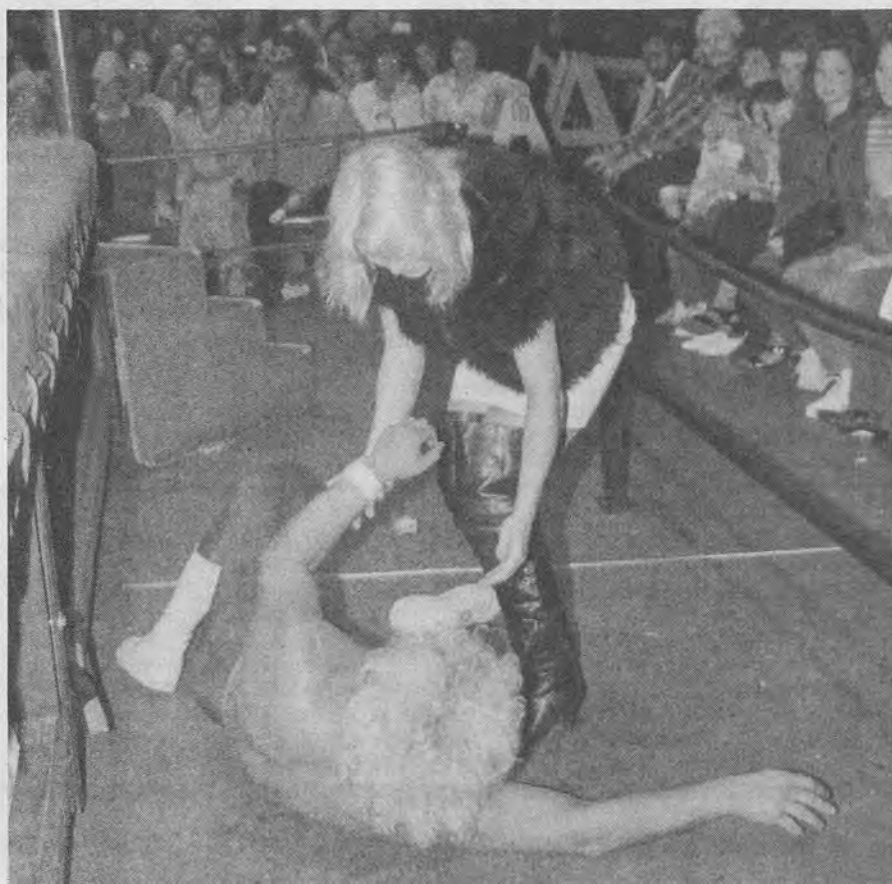
one said, 'Look at Sunshine, look at how good she turned out.' I was everyone's best friend. Little girls stopped me in the street. Young boys had crushes on me. It was great. Problem was, everyone I sided with always seemed to lose. Yeah, we'd be cheered like crazy, applauded and rooted for and worshipped, but at match's end, it was always the other team, the team that broke the rules who always came out on top."

She looked around her once again. Hayes took a swig from a bottle of Jack Daniel's. Gordy polished off a beer in one gulp and burped. "Well, I'm tired of losing," she continued. "The Freebirds are proven winners. God knows they've beat up on my teams enough. It's real simple fellas. Nice girls finish last. I'm tired of being *nice*." With that Sunshine grabbed the bottle from Hayes' hand and drained it. She threw the empty container into the audience, dispersing the reporters once again.

Roberts grabbed the microphone and screamed, "Yeah! Yeah! Y'hear that morons?" The emphasis in "morons" was on the first syllable, caricaturing even more Roberts' stupid-sounding Southern drawl. "She's with *us* now, understand?"

The Freebirds and Sunshine ran from the podium into a waiting limousine. But before Sunshine went into the car, she turned toward the reporters, all asking her questions a mile a minute. One reporter wrote in his column the next day, "... the look in her eyes was one of pleading, as if to say, 'Help me, this isn't what I want, I swear it's not.' There was no conviction in her fierce eyes, and there always used to be. For Sunshine and The Freebirds, I dare say this is but the first chapter in a long, long book."

Stay tuned. □



INSIDE WRESTLING'S OFFICIAL RATINGS

TOP 15

- 1—**RIC FLAIR**
243, Minneapolis, MN
- 2—**HULK HOGAN**
302, Venice Beach, CA
- 3—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Moscow, Russia

- 4—**RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL
- 5—**NICK BOCKWINKEL**
245, Beverly Hills, CA
- 6—**KEVIN VON ERICH**
239, Denton, TX
- 7—**TERRY GORDY**
289, Chattanooga, TN

- 8—**RICK STEAMBOAT**
238, Honolulu, HI
- 9—**STEVE WILLIAMS**
265, Norman, OK
- 10—**LEX LUGER**
268, Chicago, IL
- 11—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX

- 12—**BARRY WINDHAM**
236, Sweetwater, TX
- 13—**TERRY TAYLOR**
225, Vero Beach, FL
- 14—**TULLY BLANCHARD**
235, San Antonio, TX
- 15—**MICHAEL HAYES**
255, Marietta, GA

NWA

- 1—**RIC FLAIR**
243, Minneapolis, MN
- 2—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Moscow, Russia
- 3—**TULLY BLANCHARD**
235, San Antonio, TX

- 4—**BARRY WINDHAM**
236, Sweetwater, TX
- 5—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
- 6—**LEX LUGER**
268, Chicago, IL
- 7—**BILL DUNDEE**
214, Melbourne, Australia

- 8—**KEVIN SULLIVAN**
252, Boston, MA
- 9—**DICK MURDOCH**
270, Waxahatchie, TX
- 10—**CARLOS COLON**
246, Bayamon, Puerto Rico
- 11—**RIP OLIVER**
245, Tampa, FL

- 12—**BRAD ARMSTRONG**
226, Marietta, GA
- 13—**ARN ANDERSON**
249, Minneapolis, MN
- 14—**BAD NEWS ALLEN**
280, New York, NY
- 15—**RONNIE GARVIN**
231, Montreal, Quebec

AWA

- 1—**NICK BOCKWINKEL**
245, Beverly Hills, CA
- 2—**CURT HENNIG**
235, Minneapolis, MN
- 3—**JIMMY SNUKA**
251, Fiji Islands

- 4—**COL. DeBEERS**
265, Cape Town, South Africa
- 5—**LARRY ZBYSZKO**
248, Pittsburgh, PA
- 6—**MR. SAITO**
247, Japan
- 7—**GREG GAGNE**
220, Robbinsdale, MN

- 8—**JERRY LAWLER**
234, Memphis, TN
- 9—**SUPER NINJA**
263, Japan
- 10—**LEON WHITE**
375, Denver, CO
- 11—**KEVIN KELLY**
271, Oakland, CA

- 12—**EARTHQUAKE FERRIS**
380, San Francisco, CA
- 13—**BORIS ZUKHOV**
254, Leningrad, Russia
- 14—**BILLY ROBINSON**
265, Manchester, England
- 15—**BRIAN KNOBBS**
278, Allentown, PA

WWF

- 1—**HULK HOGAN**
302, Venice Beach, CA
- 2—**RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL
- 3—**ANDRE THE GIANT**
497, Grenoble, France

- 4—**RICK STEAMBOAT**
238, Honolulu, HI
- 5—**KAMALA**
402, Uganda
- 6—**RODDY PIPER**
231, Glasgow, Scotland
- 7—**PAUL ORNDORFF**
253, Brandon, FL

- 8—**JAKE ROBERTS**
246, Stone Mountain, GA
- 9—**HERCULES HERNANDEZ**
265, Tampa, FL
- 10—**BILLY JACK HAYNES**
245, Portland, OR
- 11—**TITO SANTANA**
245, Toluca, Mexico

- 12—**ADRIAN ADONIS**
313, New York, NY
- 13—**MAGNIFICENT MURACO**
274, Sunset Beach, HI
- 14—**HARLEY RACE**
255, Kansas City, MO
- 15—**KING KONG BUNDY**
468, Atlantic City, NJ

MOST POPULAR

- 1—**HULK HOGAN**
302, Venice Beach, CA
- 2—**BARRY WINDHAM**
236, Sweetwater, TX
- 3—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Moscow, Russia

- 4—**RICK STEAMBOAT**
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- 11—**RODDY PIPER**
231, Glasgow, Scotland

- 12—**TED DiBIASE**
247, Omaha, NB
- 13—**LANCE VON ERICH**
260, Arlington, TX
- 14—**BRAD ARMSTRONG**
226, Marietta, GA
- 15—**STEVE SIMPSON**
230, Johannesburg, South Africa

MOST HATED

- 1—**ANDRE THE GIANT**
497, Grenoble, France
- 2—**RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL
- 3—**RIC FLAIR**
243, Minneapolis, MN

- 4—**COL. DeBEERS**
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235, Tampa, FL
- 14—**ARN ANDERSON**
249, Minneapolis, MN
- 15—**ADRIAN ADONIS**
313, New York, NY

TAG TEAMS

- 1—**THE ROAD WARRIORS**
No. 2 contenders to NWA World tag title
- 2—**BRETT HART & JIM NEIDHART**
WWF World tag team champions
- 3—**THE MIDNIGHT ROCKERS**
AWA World tag team champions
- 4—**MANNY FERNANDEZ & RICK RUDE**
NWA World tag team champions
- 5—**THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS**
No. 1 contenders to NWA World tag title

- 6—**THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS**
No. 3 contenders to NWA tag team title
- 7—**BARRY WINDHAM & RONNIE GARVIN**
U.S. tag team champions
- 8—**RICK MARTEL & TOM ZENK**
No. 1 contenders to WWF tag team title
- 9—**STEVE WILLIAMS & TED DiBIASE**
No. 1 contenders to UWF tag team title
- 10—**BRIAN ADIAS & AL MADRIL**
World Class tag team champions

- 11—**RAYMOND & JACQUES ROUGEAU**
No. 2 contenders to WWF tag team title
- 12—**SEAN ROYAL & CHRIS CHAMPION**
Florida tag team champions
- 13—**THE KANSAS JAYHAWKS**
No. 1 contenders to U.S. tag team title
- 14—**THE FANTASTICS**
No. 1 contenders to World Class tag team title
- 15—**PLAYBOY BUDDY ROSE & DOUG SOMERS**
No. 1 contenders to AWA tag team title

These ratings are compiled by the editors with the assistance of promoters, wrestlers, and reporters around the country, and are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler . . . "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices . . . Championships marked with asterisks on the "Roll Call of Champions" indicate title changes that have taken place since our previous issue . . . The information under the championship listing indicates the date that champion won the title, who the former champion was, and where the match took place .

For period ended January 29, 1987

ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS

- * **ALABAMA CHAMPION: WENDELL COOLEY**
(January 12, 1987; from Tony Anthony; Birmingham, AL)
- ALL-JAPAN ASIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:**
SUPER STRONG MACHINE & ASHURA HARA
(October 30, 1986; from Takashi Ishikawa & Mighty Inoue; Aomori, Japan)
- ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA**
(October 21, 1986; from Stan Hansen; Tokyo)
- ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:**
RIKI CHOSHU & YOSHIKI YATSU
(February 5, 1986; from Jumbo Tsuruta & Tenryu; Osaka, Japan)
- * **ALL-JAPAN JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MASANOBU FUCHI**
(January 3, 1987; from Kuniaki Kobayashi; Tokyo)
- ALL-JAPAN UNITED NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP: GENICHIRO TENRYU**
(April 26, 1986; tournament final over Ted DiBiase; Omiya, Japan)
- ALL-PACIFIC WOMEN'S CHAMPION: LELANI KAI**
(August 21, 1986; from Chika; Tokyo, Japan)
- AWA WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP: SHERRI MARTEL**
(June 28, 1986; from Candi Divine; Oakland, CA)
- AWA WORLD CHAMPION: NICK BOCKWINKEL**
(June 29, 1986; awarded by default from Stan Hansen; Denver, CO)
- * **AWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE MIDNIGHT ROCKERS**
(January 27, 1987; from Buddy Rose & Doug Somers; St. Paul, MN)
- BAHAMAS CHAMPION: BAD NEWS ALLEN**
(December 16, 1986; from The Falcon; Orlando, FL)
- BRITISH COMMONWEALTH CHAMPION: LES THORNTON**
(September 19, 1986; from Johnny Smith; Calgary, Alberta)
- * **CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: HERCULES AYALA**
(January 19, 1987; from David Shultz; Montreal, Quebec)
- CANADIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: SHEIK ALI & RICHARD CHARLAND**
(October 13, 1986; from Dan Kroffat & Tom Zenk; Montreal, Quebec)
- * **CENTRAL STATES CHAMPION: BILL DUNDEE**
(January 3, 1987; from Sam Houston; Topeka, KS)
- * **CENTRAL STATES TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE M.O.D. SQUAD**
(January 2, 1987; from Todd Champion & Dave Petersen; Kansas City, KS)
- * **FLORIDA CHAMPION: BAD NEWS ALLEN**
(January 20, 1987; from Ron Simmons; Tampa, FL)
- FLORIDA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: SEAN ROYAL & CHRIS CHAMPION**
(December 25, 1986; tournament final over Kendall Windham & Victor Steamboat; Tampa, FL)
- INTERNATIONAL WRESTLING GRAND PRIX CHAMPION: ANTONIO INOKI**
(June 19, 1986; tournament final over Dick Murdoch; Tokyo, Japan)
- IWGP INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT**
(most recently held by Tsumi Fujinami & Kengo Kimura)
- IWGP JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: SHIRO KOSHINAKA**
(September 19, 1986; from Nobuhiko Takada; Fukuoka, Japan)
- JAPANESE WOMEN'S CHAMPION: YUKARI OMORI**
(August 23, 1986; from Devil Masami; Kawasaki, Japan)
- JAPANESE WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT**
(most recently held by Dump Matsumoto & Bull Nakano)
- MID-AMERICAN CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT**
(most recently held by Big Bubba)
- MID-ATLANTIC CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT**
(most recently held by Ronnie Garvin)
- MID-SOUTHERN CHAMPION: JERRY LAWLER**
(September 8, 1986; from Bam Bam Bigelow; Memphis, TN)
- * **MID-SOUTHERN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: SOUL TRAIN JONES**
(January 15, 1987; from Big Bubba; Memphis, TN)
- MID-SOUTHERN INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:**
PAT TANAKA & PAUL DIAMOND
(December 13, 1986; from Akio Sato & Tarzan Goto; Memphis, TN)
- MID-SOUTHERN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE RPMs**
(December 13, 1986; from Jeff Jarrett & Billy Travis; Memphis, TN)
- NWA JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: DENNY BROWN**
(September 1, 1986; from Steve Regal; Greenville, SC)
- NWA SIX-MAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE ROAD WARRIORS & DUSTY RHODES**
(May 17, 1986; from Ivan & Nikita Koloff & Baron Von Raschke; Baltimore)
- NWA TV CHAMPION: TULLY BLANCHARD**
(November 27, 1986; from Dusty Rhodes; Greensboro, NC)
- NWA WORLD CHAMPION: RIC FLAIR**
(August 9, 1986; from Dusty Rhodes; St. Louis)
- NWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: MANNY FERNANDEZ & RICK RUDE**
(December 6, 1986; from The Rock 'n' Roll Express; Atlanta)
- PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAMPION: RIP OLIVER**
(December 4, 1986; from The Assassin; Portland, WA)
- * **PACIFIC NORTHWEST TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: RICKY SANTANA & COCOA SAMOA**
(January 7, 1987; from Mike Miller & Abughdadien; Portland, WA)
- PWF CHAMPION: RIKI CHOSHU**
(April 5, 1986; from Stan Hansen; Yokohama, Japan)
- PWF TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: STAN HANSEN & TED DIBIASE**
(as mandated by PWF wrestling officials)
- * **SOUTHEAST CHAMPION: EXOTIC ADRIAN STREET**
(January 5, 1987; from Rip Rogers; Birmingham, AL)
- SOUTHEAST CONTINENTAL CHAMPION: THE BULLET**
(December 8, 1986; from Kevin Sullivan; Birmingham, AL)
- SOUTHEAST CONTINENTAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE NIGHTMARES**
(December 25, 1986; from Jerry Stubbs & Tony Anthony; Birmingham, AL)
- * **SOUTHEAST U.S. JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: LARRY HAMILTON**
(January 9, 1987; from Tom Pritchard; Birmingham, AL)
- * **SOUTHERN CHAMPION: KEVIN SULLIVAN**
(January 16, 1987; from Lex Luger; Daytona, FL)
- U.S. CHAMPION: NIKITA KOLOFF**
(August 17, 1986; best-of-seven final over Magnum T.A.; Charlotte, NC)
- (September 28, 1986; unification victory over National heavyweight champion Wahoo McDaniel; Atlanta, GA)
- U.S. TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BARRY WINDHAM & RONNIE GARVIN**
(December 9, 1986; from Ivan Koloff & Krusher Khrushchev; Spartanburg, SC)
- UWA MEXICAN WOMEN'S CHAMPION: SHINOBU KANDORI**
(December 23, 1986; from Lola Gonzales; Tokyo, Japan)
- UWF HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: ONE MAN GANG**
(November 11, 1986; awarded by Terry Gordy's default; Tulsa, OK)
- UWF TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TERRY TAYLOR & HACKSAW DUGGAN**
(December 27, 1986; from Leroy Brown & Bill Irwin; Ft. Worth, TX)
- UWF TV CHAMPION: SAVANNAH JACK**
(November 11, 1986; from Buddy Roberts; Tulsa, OK)
- WORLD CLASS CHAMPION: KEVIN VON ERICH**
(October 12, 1986; from Black Bart; Dallas, TX)
- WORLD CLASS SIX-MAN CHAMPIONS: KEVIN, LANCE, & MIKE VON ERICH**
(May 4, 1986; from The Fabulous Freebirds; Irving, TX)
- WORLD CLASS TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BRIAN ADIAS & AL MADRIL**
(December 1, 1986; from Lance Von Erich & Dingo Warrior; Ft. Worth, TX)
- WORLD CLASS TV CHAMPION: TONY ATLAS**
(December 1, 1986; from Crusher Yurkof; Ft. Worth, TX)
- * **WORLD CLASS TEXAS CHAMPION: BOB BRADLEY**
(January 12, 1987; tournament final over Dingo Warrior; Ft. Worth, TX)
- WORLD WOMEN'S CHAMPION: THE FABULOUS MOOLAH**
(November 25, 1985; from Wendi Richter; New York)
- WORLD WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: LELANI KAI & JUDY MARTIN**
(August 1985; from Desiree Petersen & Velvet McIntyre; Egypt)
- WWC JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: INVADER III**
(November 9, 1986; from Don Kent; San Juan, Puerto Rico)
- * **WWC NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPION: MIGUEL PEREZ JR.**
(January 21, 1987; from Bob Heffernan; Catano, Puerto Rico)
- * **WWC NORTH AMERICAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:**
BOB HEFFERNAN & EL GRAN MENDOZA
(January 6, 1987; from Miguel Perez Jr. & Big Red; San Juan, Puerto Rico)
- * **WWC PUERTO RICAN CHAMPION: MIGHTY IGOR**
(January 9, 1987; from Al Perez; San Juan, Puerto Rico)
- * **WWC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: CHRIS & MARK YOUNGBLOOD**
(January 6, 1987; from Ron & Chickie Starr; San Juan, Puerto Rico)
- WWC UNIVERSAL CHAMPION: CARLOS COLON**
(September 21, 1986; tournament final over Terry Funk; San Juan, PR)
- WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: RANDY SAVAGE**
(February 8, 1986; from Tito Santana; Boston)
- WWF WORLD CHAMPION: HULK HOGAN**
(January 23, 1984; from The Iron Sheik; New York)
- * **WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BRETT HART & JIM NEIDHART**
(January 26, 1987; from The British Bulldogs; Tampa, FL)

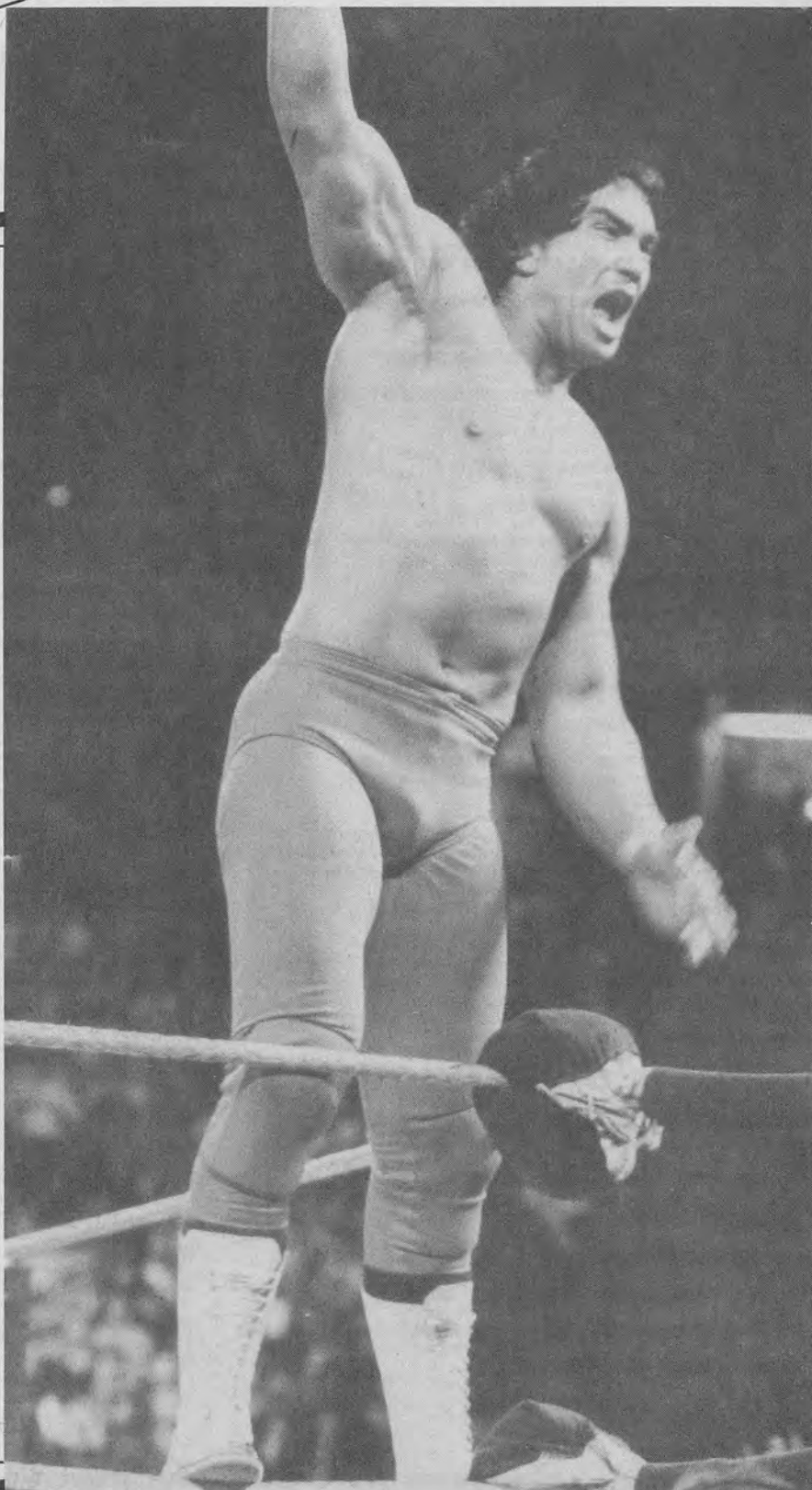
More Savage Than "The Macho Man":

RICK STEAMBOAT HAS Sunday, March 29, circled in bright red on his calendar. WrestleMania III will take place at the Pontiac Silverdome on Sunday, March 29, and Steamboat hopes to get his long-awaited grudge match with Randy Savage on that card and walk out of the big stadium with "The Macho Man's" Intercontinental title.

Sunday, March 29. Rick Steamboat's day of reckoning.

Randy Savage also has Sunday, March 29, circled in bright red on his calendar. Savage also expects to wrestle Steamboat at WrestleMania III, and he intends to walk out of Detroit having rendered his opponent a useless heap.

"Rick Steamboat's gonna find out that you can't mess with The Macho Man. The Macho Man's gonna take his pencil neck and squeeze it into little pieces. Have you ever seen a man like The Macho Man? Steamboat's gonna find out that he's just messing with the wrong guy."



RICK STEAMBOAT'S COLLISION COURSE WITH DISASTER!

The Intercontinental title is meaningless to Rick Steamboat at this stage in his life.

He wants only to destroy "Macho Man" Randy Savage.

And if it means ending his own career in doing so, that's a price he's willing to pay



Rick "The Dragon" Steamboat shouts for Randy "Macho Man" Savage to come back to the ring (opposite page). Steamboat pushes him into the corner (above) and rams his head into the turnbuckle (below). Their hot feud will probably come to a head at WrestleMania III.



According to some doctors, Steamboat shouldn't be messing around with anyone right now. Although WWF physicians have declared him 100 percent physically fit, doctors with less monetary interest in Steamboat's ring career say that he is wrestling with fate every time he steps into the ring.

"Rick Steamboat suffered a serious neck injury, and for proper recovery needs proper rest," says Dr. Phyllis Eady of New York City, who has treated cases similar to Steamboat's. "He feels fine, so he just figures that it's okay to wrestle, but that's just not the case. Sometimes the body plays tricks, and in this case Mr. Steamboat's body is playing a very dangerous trick on him."

When questioned further, Eady admitted that "some doctors don't have such high moral character. It's the same way in every profession. You have your good doctors and your bad doctors, just like you have good plumbers and bad plumbers. Steamboat means

(Continued on page 58)

Barry Windham's Warning To Lex Luger:

Lex Luger and Barry Windham were best of friends in Florida. But things seem to have changed in the World Championship area. Luger is threatening to join The Four Horsemen and Windham wants to keep his friend from making the mistake of his life



"KEEP AWAY FROM

WHEN WORD FIRST came down that Lex Luger was coming to the World Championship area, Barry Windham was thrilled. "The only reservation Barry had about coming to World Championship was leaving behind his brother Kendall and his best friend Lex," said NWA promoter Jim Crockett. "It was a big relief for him when he heard that we signed Luger."

But Windham's happiness was quickly squelched. On January 16, Luger flew into Atlanta for the next

day's taping of *World Championship Wrestling*. "I knew he was in town, but he never called," Windham said. "Right then I should have known something was wrong. That wasn't like Lex."

On the morning of the television taping, Luger passed Windham in the hallway on the way to the dressing room. "I said, 'What's up, Lex?' and he just stared straight ahead and kept on walking," Windham recalls. "I figured that he was nervous, you know with coming to a



To the surprise of Barry Windham, Lex Luger explains his reasons for wanting to join The Four Horsemen (left). In his World Championship area debut, Luger power-slams George South (top) and forces him to submit with a backbreaker (above).

THE FOUR HORSEMEN!"

new area and all, and didn't see me. But that's not like Lex, either. He's always so alert."

A few hours later, Windham would find out the reasons behind Luger's strange behavior. Moments after Luger was introduced by announcers David Crockett and Tony Schiavone, the former Southern champion and *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* 1986 Rookie of the Year announced his desire to join The Four Horsemen. "I'm here for the money and that's where the money is,"

Luger told a national audience. Later, a stunned Windham came on, told Luger that he was making a mistake, and stormed off the set.

It was, indeed, an incredible development, especially since everybody had assumed that Luger had come to the World Championship area to go after NWA World champion Ric Flair, whom he had nearly beaten during his rookie year in Florida. "That was the whole plan all along," said Windham. "We

(Continued on page 63)

HOTSEAT

STEVE WILLIAMS:

"THE DOCTOR IS IN, AND ONE MAN GANG IS OUT!"

THE PRESSURE IS on Steve Williams. The task of squaring off opposite some 275-pound lineman on a football field is nothing compared to what "Dr. Death" faces now. Not too long ago, Hacksaw Jim Duggan announced that he was leaving the Universal Wrestling Federation. And when Duggan made that announcement, the weight of the UWF fell on Williams' shoulders.

So now Williams is in a thoroughly foreign position. The 265-pound native of Tulsa, Oklahoma, has never asked for the cheers of the fans, never asked for national attention, never asked for the fate of a federation to be put in his hands. Williams is a worker. That's his appeal. He gets in the ring, does his job, and leaves. The fans are a bonus, but there are two main things on Williams' list of priorities: championship belts and cash.

Williams, who recently defeated One Man Gang to win the \$50,000 PWI/UWF Challenge Cup Tournament, has his sights clearly set on Gang's UWF heavyweight title. It's not going to be easy. Gang has become a better wrestler since winning the title and actually has been helped, not hurt, by the antics of manager Gen. Skandor Akbar.

Assistant Editor Dave Rosenbaum flew to Ft. Worth, Texas, to speak with Williams. In this exclusive interview, Dr. Death outlines his plans for the coming months and discusses his career in general.

“

I've never needed the spotlight and I still don't need it. I get no great thrill out of seeing my name in lights.

”

Q: Steve, all the talk in the UWF these days is about the departure of Hacksaw Duggan. You were good friends with Hacksaw. How will his leaving affect you?

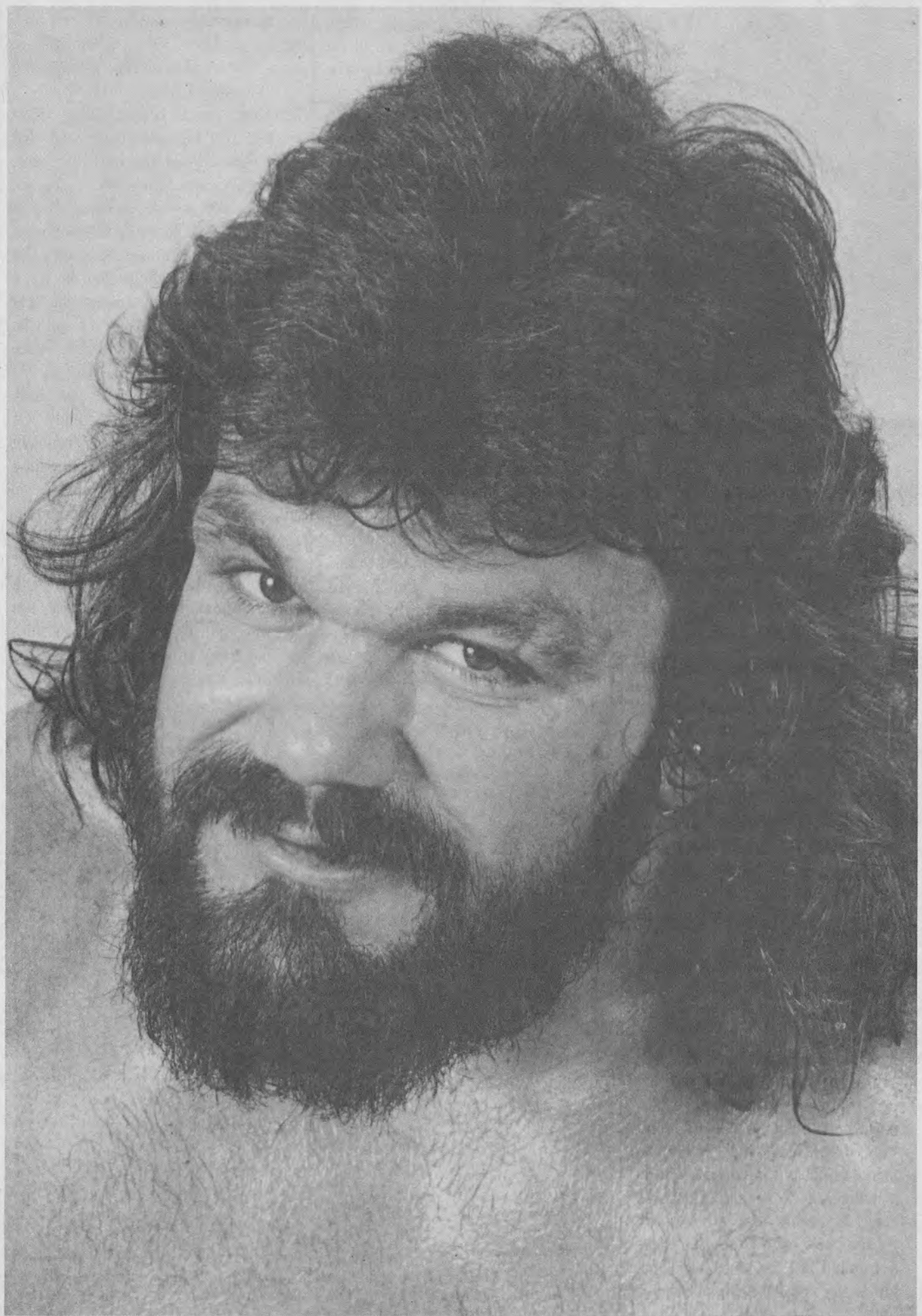
A: I've learned a few things in this business, Dave, and one thing is that you can't go around worrying about what other people are doing. You're right, Hacksaw and I were good friends, and still are, but I'm

sure that whatever Hacksaw did, he did for his own good. I wish him the best, but Hacksaw leaving has nothing to do with me.

Q: That's easy to say, but the truth is that you're now the main man in the UWF. Terry Taylor doesn't seem to have the type of outgoing personality needed to carry the entire federation on his back and I'm not too sure about DiBiase. You're really the big man now, Steve. You're the guy people are going to come to see.

A: Well, I appreciate you saying that, but I don't want any part of it. Listen, when I was young I was taught to work hard, do your job, and let things fall into place. My father always told me that if you try to be a bigshot, people are gonna start resenting you. I've never needed the spotlight and I still don't need it. If the fans wanna pay their money to come and see me, fine. That's what I'm here for. But I get no great thrill out of seeing my name in lights on some marquee. You might not believe that, Dave, but it's true.

Q: I believe you, Steve, but to tell you the truth, I'm not sure the UWF wants to hear that kind of talk.





“
Money's important, but the belt is something special. The UWF championship is the most prestigious title in the world.
 ”

You're their man. You almost *have* to play the part of the star.

A: You know, and I know, and they know, too, that nobody's ever forced Dr. Death into doing anything he didn't want to do. Now listen, the UWF people have been very good to me, and if they ask me to do something, I'll more than likely do it, but I'm not gonna be forced into anything.

Q: You might find that you'll enjoy your new role.

A: I want the belt.

Q: Excuse me?

A: I said I want the belt. I'm not enjoying anything until I get that belt from One Man Gang. That's the whole point of this. I don't want to be made the UWF's top man. As far as I'm concerned, and it bothers me to say this, One Man Gang is the top man around here because he's champion. But that's not gonna last for long. The Doctor is in, and One Man Gang is out!

Q: Actually, you've already pinned him once, on December 12 in the final of the *PWI* tournament. You know, Steve, I have an interesting question for you. If somebody came up to you and said that instead of wrestling for \$50,000 in the final of the tournament, you can wrestle for the title, what would you have done?

A: Well, I hope you don't take this as an insult, but I would've gone for the belt, no doubt about it. I've got plenty of money. Heck, all you need money for is to eat and have a place to sleep, and I got that. I'll admit that money's important, but the belt is something special. The UWF heavyweight championship is the most prestigious title in the world and you can't put a money value on it.

Q: Unfortunately, Doc, nobody gave you the choice and you had to take the \$50,000 instead. Mind if I ask you what you did with the money?

A: Yeah, I do. That's a private matter and I'd rather not get too private with this conversation. Let's stick

to wrestling, okay?

Q: No problem. What would you see as the biggest problem with beating One Man Gang?

A: There are a coupla things. He's big, real big, and tossing all that weight around the ring isn't easy. He's almost impossible to budge, especially at full strength, so you gotta come up with different ways to wear him down. Obviously, I'm in a lot better shape than he is, so I can chase him around the ring and keep him moving. Ya can't let him catch his wind. Then, once you wear him down, you go for his feet, because that's probably the weakest part of his body. Of course, there's the other problem of keeping him in the ring, because he likes to disqualify himself.

Q: There's very little you can do about that, though.

A: Well, there are some things I've thought of: a lumberjack match, a no-disqualification match, a steel cage match. That would get him and keep him in my grasp.

Q: Of course, there's the question of



UWF champion One Man Gang shouts something at Steve Williams during their prematch staredown. Williams says winning the title is more important to him than being considered the UWF's main attraction.

Gen. Akbar.

A: The man is a coward and there's no doubt about that. I can't worry about Akbar because he's a non-athlete. The guy's a jerk.

Q: Simply put, but I guess that's the Dr. Death way. Steve, a little less than a year ago, we ran a story in this magazine entitled, "Memo To Steve Williams: Wrestling Is Not A Team Sport" (August 1986) in which we urged you to concentrate more on individual competition. Do you remember the story?

A: Sure. What of it?

Q: We were just wondering, what was your reaction to that story?

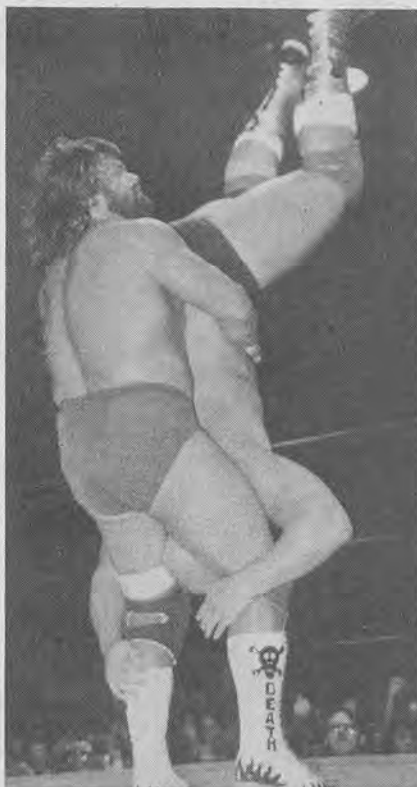
A: Well, at first I was livid. In fact, I took my copy of *Inside Wrestling* and tore it to shreds. I was gonna come right up to your office and teach you guys a lesson about what kind of sport wrestling is. But then, DiBiase walked by my locker and said, "Nice story, Steve. They really hit the nail on the head."

Q: Wow!

A: You'd better believe it. That really made me think. Then I started looking at my career and realized that you guys were right.

Q: You've certainly devoted yourself to singles wrestling these days.

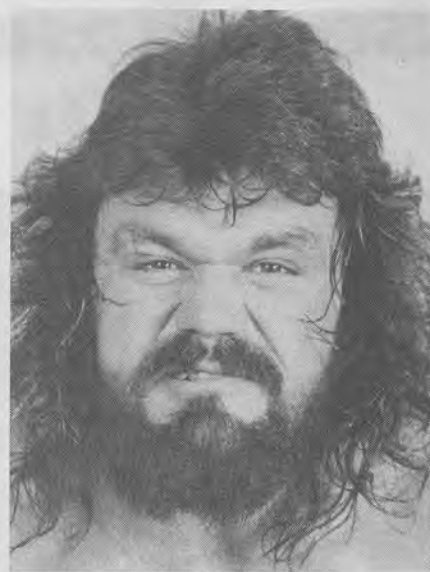
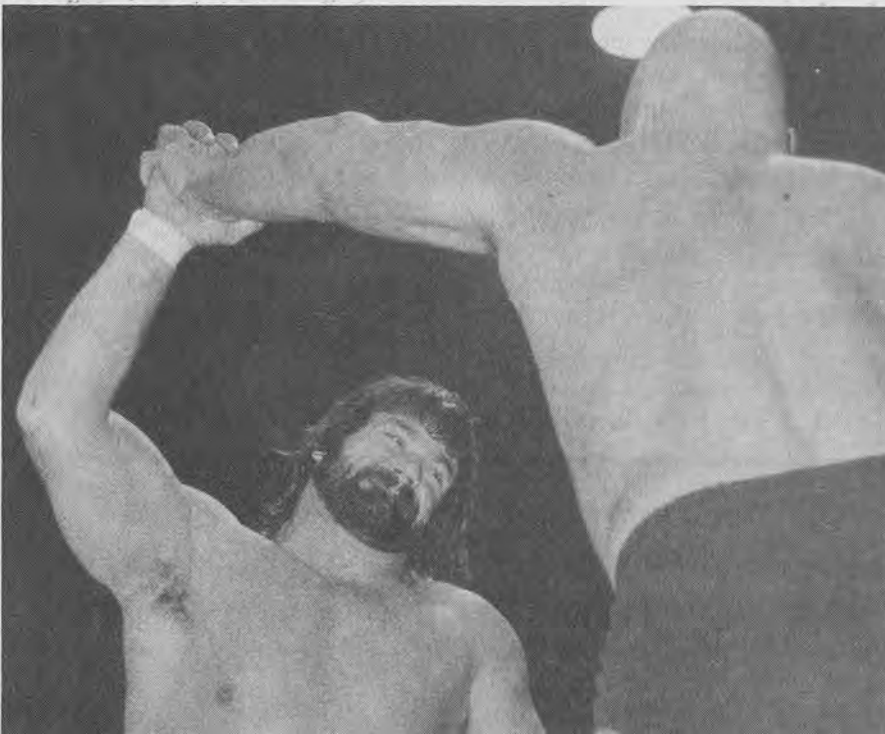
A: That's true, and I guess you guys



really gave me the kick in the butt I needed. That's why I was so anxious to win your tournament. You guys were absolutely right. I think I'm a pretty damn good wrestler and I've always been a bit of a loner. The whole idea of me wrestling so often in tag team matches was ridiculous, and I didn't even notice it.

Q: Wrestling is a multifaceted sport,

Williams, also known as "Dr. Death," piledrives Angel of Death (above) and locks up with him in a test of strength (below). Angel of Death was brought into the UWF by The Freebirds, three of Williams' most hated enemies.



“

The whole idea of me wrestling so often in tag team matches was ridiculous, and I didn't even notice it.

”

isn't it?

A: Yep. It's the greatest sport in the world.

Q: Better than football?

A: Much better than football.

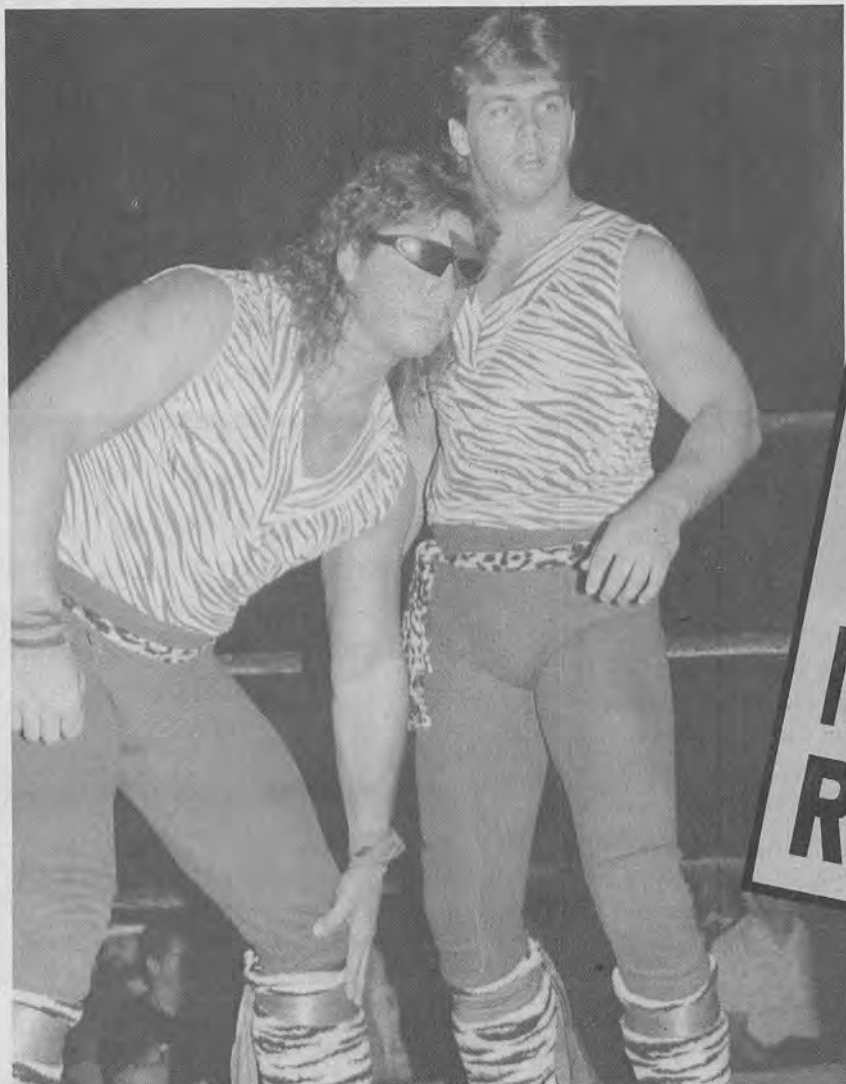
Q: Why?

A: Because of the man-to-man competition. In football, you have a little of that man-to-man stuff on the line, but it's nothing like wrestling. In wrestling, you're constantly using your mind and body, because there are no timeouts and no huddles. It's just continuous action. The best move in my life was becoming a pro wrestler.

Q: In closing, Steve, do you have anything to say to the fans?

A: I'm not much on messages to the fans, but I will say this. Play it cool. Just let me be myself, because this Dr. Death is gonna take One Man Gang and rip him to shreds. The best way to become a star, a headliner I guess you call it, is to win the championship. That's what it's all about. □

Beat Rose & Somers- Or Move On:



**THE
CLOCK
STRIKES
12
FOR THE
MIDNIGHT
ROCKERS!**

GREG GAGNE SAT back in his chair and scratched his head. Gagne had that look a person gets when he has something to say but doesn't know quite how to say it without embarrassing somebody. Finally, he stared directly into the eye of the reporter sitting in front of him and began to speak.

"Let me see how to word this," said Gagne. "The Midnight Rockers are a great team. In fact, I don't think

there's any doubt that they're the best tag team in the AWA, probably by far, and because of this, they should have won the World championship a long time ago. That's what concerns me, their inability to win the big one and beat Rose and Somers when it really counts. You gotta wonder.

"Now look at this," Gagne continued, starting to get more comfortable with what he was saying. "May 17, 1986. That's the night Buddy Rose and

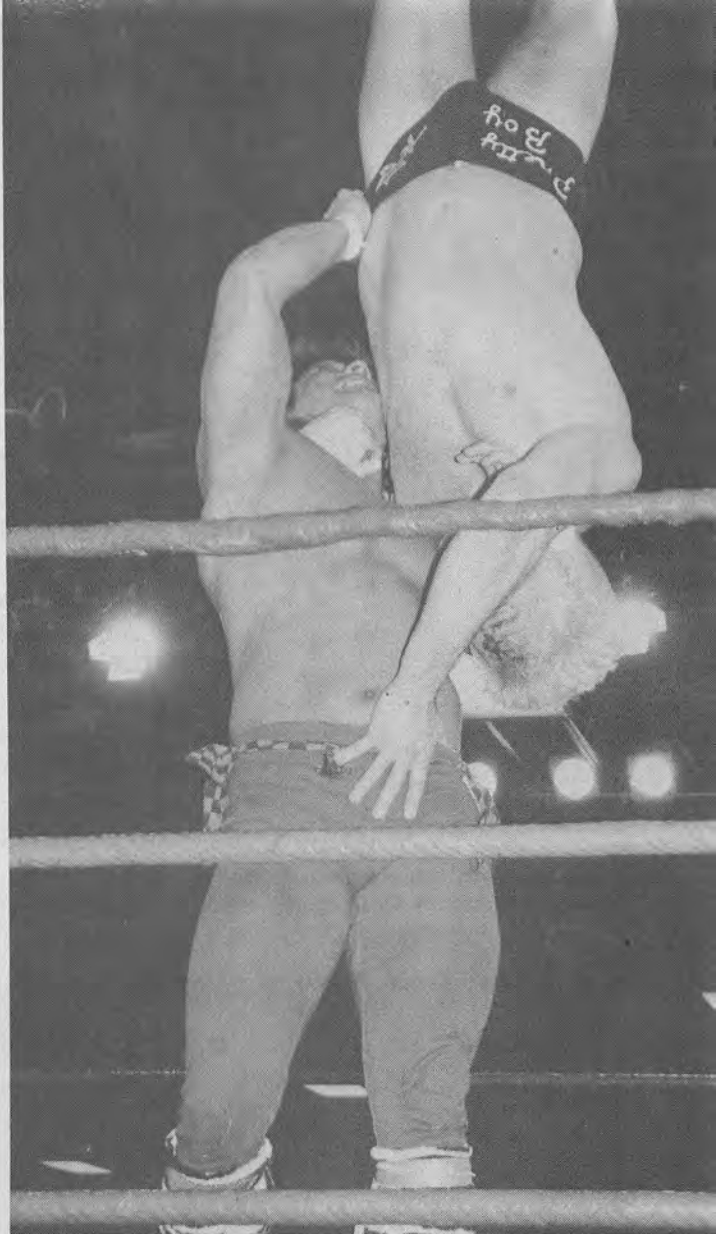
Doug Somers won the belts from Scott Hall and Curt Hennig in Hammond, Indiana. Now, I don't think anybody thought that Rose and Somers would last more than a few weeks with the belts.

"By that time, the Rockers weren't considered main contenders because they had just come onto the scene. But they established themselves pretty quickly and I think that if they don't win the belts real soon, people are

The time is now for Marty Jannetty and Shawn Michaels. They've had countless shots at the AWA World tag team title, but have been unable to grab the elusive hardware. If they don't win it soon, The Midnight Rockers might find that it's time to hit the road



Sherri Martel, manager of AWA World tag team champions Buddy Rose and Doug Somers, begs Marty Jannetty not to slap her (above). Jannetty, who is frustrated over Martel's frequent interference, suplexes Somers (right). Rose walks right into a punch from Shawn Michaels (below).

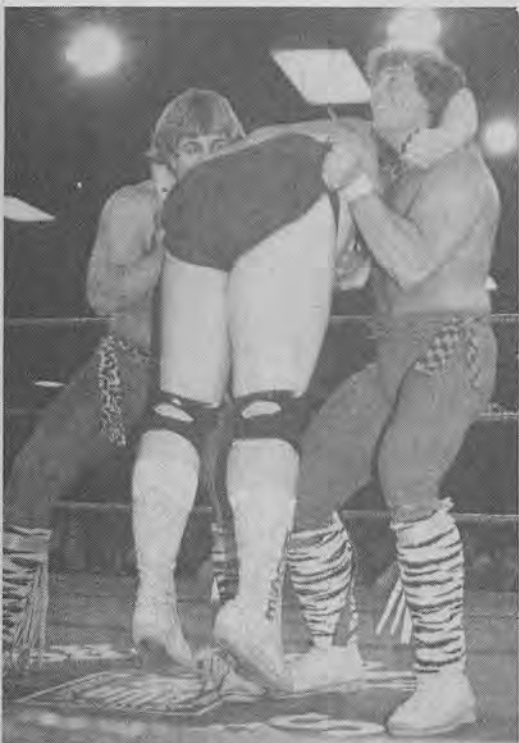


gonna lose some respect for them."

And so, after less than a year as a tag team, it has come down to this for Marty Jannetty and Shawn Michaels, The Midnight Rockers: Beat Rose and Somers for the World tag team belts or get out of the AWA.

Expectations can be the toughest obstacle for a young tag team to overcome. When Michaels and Jannetty first joined forces and became The Midnight Rockers, they were roundly criticized by the wrestling community. The name—and their style—was considered a cheap imitation of The Rock 'n' Roll Express and The Midnight Express.

It was quickly established, however, that the Rockers are a unique tag team. Their "rocker suplex" was just one of the many fabulous moves that



The Midnight Rockers execute their "rocker suplex" on Rose (above). Michaels launches a punch against Somers (below). If the Rockers don't win the AWA tag belts soon, perhaps they should rethink their future in the AWA.



set them apart from their NWA counterparts. Their youthful enthusiasm and dedication to the sport spawned a legion of loyal fans. The Midnight Rockers injected a dose of excitement into the AWA.

But soon, expectations turned into demands and The Midnight Rockers became victims of their own press clippings. The more the fans came to hate Rose and Somers, the more they wanted to see the belts around the waists of Jannetty and Michaels. The fans would accept a championship and nothing else. Presently, The Midnight Rockers are ranked ahead of Rose and Somers in *Inside Wrestling's* Top 15 (see page 32), but that won't help them win the championship.

The fans had their appetites further whetted in August, when Jannetty pinned Somers in St. Paul, Minnesota, and it appeared that the Rockers had won the belts. But the decision was reversed when it was ruled that Rose was the man who was legally supposed

to be in the ring. The belts were returned to Rose and Somers.

Still, the Rockers proved on that night that they could beat Rose and Somers. Certainly, if they did it once, they could do it again. But they couldn't. The Rockers won most of the return matches over the following months, but always by disqualification. Sometimes Rose and Somers would get themselves disqualified. Other times, manager Sherri Martel would do it for them. Some matches ended in double-disqualifications. The Midnight Rockers were never pinned, but they were no closer to the title.

Then, on Christmas night in St. Paul, Jannetty and Michaels took a big step toward the title. In a non-title steel cage match, Jannetty pinned Somers to earn another series of shots at the belt. It was an outstanding match and a clear-cut victory. From almost any standpoint, time was running out on Rose and Somers' title reign.

But time seems to be running out on the Rockers as well. "They just can't catch up to us so maybe they should just give up," suggested Somers. "You know, these guys have had tons of title matches and they still haven't won. They never will. There comes a time when you just gotta give up and face the facts."

For once, Somers might be right.

"It just seems like we're knocking at the door all the time and just can't bust through," said Michaels. "First of all, these guys are always getting themselves disqualified, but we should be able to stop that. It's very frustrating, that's all I can tell you, but we have this message for our fans. We're not gonna give up. We're gonna get those belts."

This time, it's now or never. The Midnight Rockers have had enough chances. So far, they've been fortunate that the AWA lacks tag teams. Otherwise, they would have never received so many title shots. But the fans' patience is running low. The matchmakers' patience is running low.

It's put up or shut up time. Do it now, or get out! That's the challenge facing The Midnight Rockers. □

The telephone wires sizzle every month as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. This is the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to see the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off . . . One on One

THERE'S NO QUESTION that 1986 was a bad year for two of the sport's biggest stars.

On June 4, Kerry Von Erich was driving his motorcycle in Argyle, Texas. He pulled out of his lane to pass a van and did not see the police car that was stopped in front of the van to make a left turn. His motorcycle pulled in to complete the pass and skidded into the rear of the car.

Kerry suffered a compound fracture of his right ankle, a dislocated right hip, and lacerations to his right knee. He underwent 20 hours of surgery in three days. His condition has been improving and, as of press time, he was scheduled to return to the ring in early February.

On October 14, Magnum T.A. lost control of the Porsche 911 he was driving and crashed into a utility pole in Charlotte, North Carolina. His fifth vertebra shattered in the collision, sending bone fragments into his spinal cord. Extensive surgery was required to save his life, including bone grafts from his hip to replace his vertebra.

T.A. has been undergoing extensive physical therapy since the accident. While it was once feared that Magnum would never walk again, doctors are now speaking about T.A. walking again not in terms of "if," but rather "when." A return to the ring remains highly questionable.

ONE ON ONE



"I'm gonna be walking a lot sooner than you think. The doctors didn't know who they were dealing with, did they?"

—Magnum T.A.

Inside Wrestling brought these two stars together by telephone to discuss the events of a tragic and harrowing year . . . "One on One."

MAGNUM T.A.:

I don't know about these guys at *Inside Wrestling*. This must be their idea of a joke, bringing two cripples together to talk about how they can't wrestle anymore. I guess you and I have more in common than we ever thought.

KERRY VON ERICH:

Listen up, brother, we *do* have a lot more in common. I'm walking again, you'll be walking again soon, I'll be back to the ring real soon, and you'll be back soon after that. Don't be calling ourselves cripples, Terry,

that's negative thinking. This isn't a time for negative thinking.

T.A.: No worry, Kerry, just trying to make light of the situation. Actually, I don't know about you, man, but I'm gonna be walking a lot sooner than you or anybody else thinks. I know the doctors told you the same thing they told me, that I'd never wrestle again, but they didn't know who they were dealing with, did they?

K.V.: You got that right, my man. This is more than a raspberry from a bodyslam! But, hey, the doctors are all right. I'll tell you one thing, though, coming through this kind of injury is the kind of thing you can't do alone. A positive attitude is one

N ONE



"Coming through this kind of injury is the kind of thing you can't do alone. You gotta have the family there to support you."

—Kerry Von Erich

thing, but you gotta have the family there to support you when you think you can't go on any further.

T.A.: You'd better believe it, Kerry. From day one, all my fans got behind me. Man, I was getting thousands of letters and phone calls, like you wouldn't believe. These people were holding a vigil down in the hospital lobby. They're absolutely crazy, but I love 'em! And my family was incredible. I don't know what I would've done without 'em. I probably wouldn't have made it this far.

K.V.: Man, it's like . . . you know, we're here talking like this, and it's funny, you know? I mean, it's like nothing ever happened to me. I know I'm still not a

hundred percent, but I'm gonna be back in just a few weeks and just to be talking like this, to be thinking back about the support of the fans, my family, my faith . . . you know, talking to you, thinking about all this again, really makes me appreciate where I'm coming from. Man, I'm glad to be involved in wrestling, because the fans and the people are like nobody else anywhere in the world.

T.A.: That's the great thing about wrestling, Kerry. In no other sport do the fans get so involved. In basketball, baseball, football, the fans are set so far back from the players, they hardly get a chance to have contact with them. But in this sport, you can shake hands with

the fans and really get to know them personally. That's one of the things that made me want to become a professional wrestler.

K.V.: I gotta ask you, Magnum, 'cause it sounds like we share some of the same motivations. I want to get back for three reasons: first, for the fans; second, for my family; and third, to prove to myself that I can do it, even though they said I couldn't. What's driving you, brother?

T.A.: To be totally honest with you, Kerry, I just gotta get out of these hospitals! It's driving me absolutely batty. You know, I think I've watched every television show, read every newspaper, every magazine, done every puzzle book, it's driving me nuts. I'm an active person, Kerry, and I don't like sitting still. Of course, I want to get back for the fans and my family, and also because of Nikita Koloff and Dusty Rhodes. I still can't believe what Nikita did for me.

K.V.: Yeah, that's a kick, isn't it? You've got to feel pretty proud about that.

T.A.: You know, Kerry, we were mortal enemies. I mean, I absolutely hated Nikita and he hated me, but I guess we were a lot closer than we thought. I'm not the kind of guy who takes anything lightly, especially the United States title, and Nikita was making the whole thing into a political deal. Well, I wasn't going to stand pat for that. But then when I got hurt, Nikita was like a human being. I'd really like to come back and pay him back for what he did.

K.V.: I guess we both have a lot of people to thank.

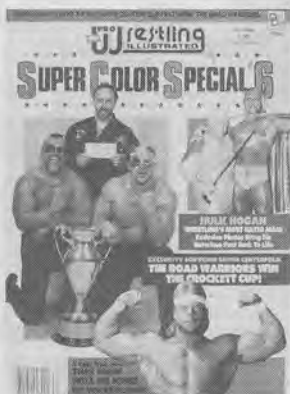
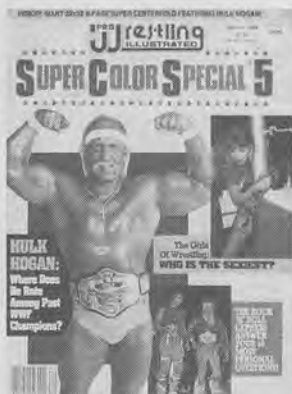
T.A.: And let's not forget. We have God to thank for all the good things that have happened to us.

K.V.: Amen.

T.A.: Good luck, Kerry.

K.V.: Same to you, brother, and it was great talking to you.

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SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 6)

with the WWF and depressed with the NWA. The WWF has the talent and some of the best matches ever signed. In my opinion, the 1986 "Match of the Year" should be the match in which The British Bulldogs won the WWF tag team title from Greg Valentine and Brutus Beefcake at WrestleMania 2.

World Championship Wrestling out of Atlanta has to be the most boring show in pro wrestling. In a two-hour show you're lucky if you see four matches. You usually have to listen to The Four Horsemen bellyache about Dusty Rhodes. And to even think about rating The Rock 'n' Roll Express above The British Bulldogs is an insult to one's intelligence. The same applies to rating Flair above Hogan.

When *World Championship Wrestling* does have a match, it's usually some spineless deadheads that no one has ever heard of. At least WWF matches put contenders against contenders.

Again, I say hooray for the WWF! *Saturday Night's Main Event* is the best wrestling show on television and the WWF is the best organization in wrestling. The only complaint against them is that they don't tour very much in the Southeastern part of the country. Let's hear it for the WWF!

R.N. LAMBERT
Calhoun City, MS

BAD REFS, GREAT FLAIR

I am dismayed at the decline of the officiating in the WWF. I am not concerned with Danny Davis and his officiating style, but with the continuing loss of control of matches by referees.

Now, I realize that this happens in all professional wrestling organizations, but it occurs abundantly in the WWF. For example, in a match between The Islanders and The Hart Foundation, the referee lost control of the match before it began.

Something must be done to solve this problem and I only hope that Vince McMahon chooses to act before

the WWF really turns into a full-fledged three-ring circus.

Another argument I have is that people are quick to criticize "Slick" Ric Flair as a champion. He has proven time and time again that he deserves to be put among such names as Bruno Sammartino, Verne Gagne, Bob Backlund, Gorgeous George, etc. Many criticize Flair because he may get himself disqualified in a title match to save his title, but in almost every instance he has signed for a series of rematches against an opponent. The opponent becomes overconfident by thinking that Flair is afraid of him. But just when the opponent becomes too cocky, Flair pounces on him for the victory. So, people, shut up!

TIM FORESHA
Waverly, OH



Lex Luger's hand is raised after another impressive victory. In the opinion of Paul Dickson, the former Southern champion has superhuman skills.

A CONFIDENT LUGER?

Just a quick note to tell you that I loved reading the "Hotseat" with Lex Luger ("Lex Luger: 'My Five Year Plan Is Four Years Ahead Of Schedule'" March 1987). Lex is probably the greatest wrestler I've seen in all my years of watching Florida wrestling and I'm sure that if he wanted to he could easily win the NWA World championship from Ric Flair.

I'm really glad to see that Lex is so confident about this, because not too long ago Lex seemed to be doubting
(Continued on page 50)

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SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 49)

himself concerning how far he could go in the sport. Luger is a superhuman. He's one of those rare wrestlers who can either overpower or outwrestle an opponent.

Again, thanks for the interview with Lex and good luck to Mr. Luger, although he really doesn't need it.

PAUL DICKSON

Gainesville, FL

THE KOLOFF SITUATION

I shuddered after reading the "One On One" between Ivan Koloff and Nikita Koloff in the March 1987 issue.



Ivan Koloff instructs Nikita Koloff to lift his knee so that he can ram Gene Ligon's face into it. Mary Morris believes the Koloff feud is sad.

To me, and I'm sure most people, there's nothing sadder than when a rift develops in a family. There's been plenty said and written about the problems that have developed between Nikita and his uncle and Nikita and the Soviet Union, but nothing has been said about the Koloff family.

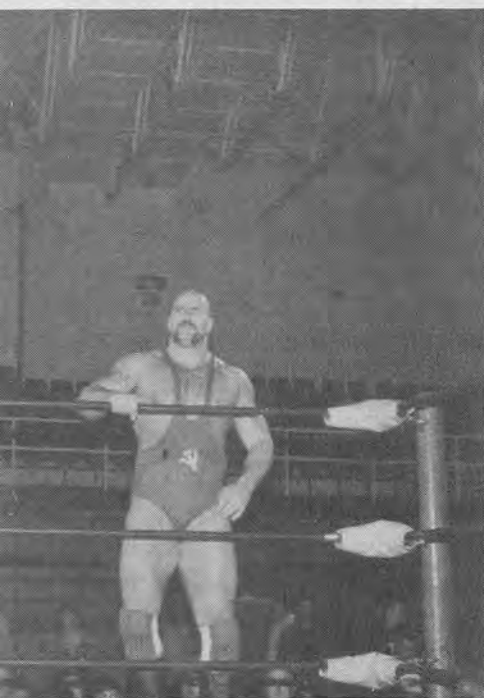
I'm sure that back in Russia, the Koloffs are having many problems right now. How is the family reacting to this split? There must be Koloffs fighting all over Russia. How about the Kremlin—have they put any pres-

sure on the Koloff family to make Nikita change his ways? And does Nikita still have contact with his family? Are they supportive of what they did?

Just consider the words spoken by Ivan: "You have thrown away your family and your country. You are on your own, now and forever." Chilling words, to say the least. They left me speechless.

I hope this horrible situation is straightened out shortly. There's much more at stake than an insignificant wrestling match.

MARY MORRIS
Springfield, VA



NOT THE TEXAS WAY

Jason Cohen of Islip Terrace, New York, is an idiot, and his letter, "A Vote For Adias" in the March 1987 "Sincerely Yours" just proves that people from New York have no feelings and wouldn't understand the way we are in Texas.

Anybody who can support what Brian Adias did just doesn't care about anyone but himself. Adias' actions were selfish and inconsiderate. Here in Texas, we don't go around stabbing people in the back. But I know that's a common occurrence in New York.

BENJAMIN WARD
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NO HOLDS BARRED

(Continued from page 20)

up as of press time. A sampling of the various odds, as I see them, follows.

If the match has a no-disqualification clause tagged on, I'd call Andre a slight 6-5 favorite. Actually, with such a clause the match should be "no line," because these two could probably go on forever without a pinfall ever occurring.

Under normal rules, Hogan is about a 2-1 favorite. Andre is much madder, and right now much more emotional than Hogan, and thus more likely to get himself disqualified. It's 9-5 that Andre gets disqualified; 4-5 that Hogan gets himself disqualified.

With a 60-minute time limit likely, I call it 4-5 that the match is a draw. As I said before, these two guys could probably go on forever without a decision ever being reached. We're talking about two of the sport's greatest superstars and their strengths are very similar. Of course, both have physical ailments, Andre in particular, and might have trouble lasting 60 minutes. Certainly something to be considered. How about a double-disqualification? How about 3-5?

Although I enjoy placing a wager every now and then, I think I'll sit back and watch this one. I'd hate to have this great match ruined by a losing bet, and I'd much rather watch from an objective standpoint. Personally, I feel there is a good chance for a double-countout, but I would never bet that way. If I were to bet, I'd go with Andre. He has 22 years of experience behind him and a great will to win. That means quite a bit in the emotional world of professional wrestling.

Speaking of emotion, I sat shocked in Madison Square Garden on Monday evening, January 19, 1987, and listened to over

22,000 fans unmercifully, disrespectfully, and rather stupidly boo the great Andre the Giant.

Here is a man who has given the fans and the sport almost a quarter century of unselfish service and incredible dedication. For the past 22 years, Andre has done everything in his power to promote the sport to fans around the world. Soccer had Pele. Baseball had Willie Mays. Hockey had Wayne Gretzky. Basketball had Wilt Chamberlain. Wrestling has Bruno Sammartino and Andre the Giant.

And after 22 years of service and no pinfalls, all Andre is asking for is a shot at the World title. Is there something so terribly wrong with that? Can any thinking wrestling fan really say that he doesn't deserve it? Was it possible to look at Andre's face, as he lovingly held the belt on that night in the Garden, and not feel something inside?

As Andre looked longingly at the belt, I turned to Craig Peters and said, "That's really sad." Craig agreed. And I thought the way Hogan begged Andre to give back the belt was rather pitiful. Conduct unbecoming a champion. Let it be said that Hulk Hogan is a showboat. The man is totally full of himself. He soaks in the cheers of the fans, a celebration of himself, while all the while estimating his paycheck for the evening. He cares about one thing. Bucks.

The Hulkamaniac is an egomaniac. Andre only asks his due. The fans who booed Andre should be ashamed of themselves. They were booing a legend, a wrestling god.

In this upcoming epic, the people who really care about wrestling will be rooting for Andre the Giant. It's the right thing to do. Think about it. □

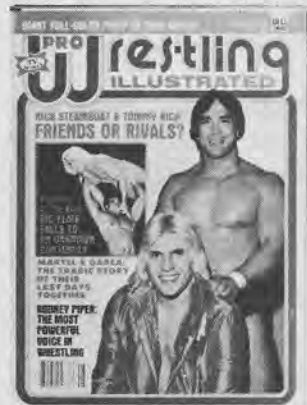
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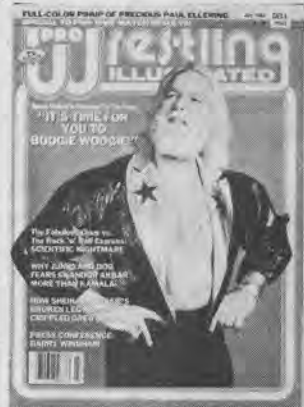
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DRESSING ROOM

(Continued from page 10)

his back, Andre will be in major trouble."

Peter King: "Hogan, easy. Andre is past his prime. He has suffered many injuries over the past years and has put on a lot of weight. Believe me, WWF officials remember back six years when Andre pinned Hogan. By now, though, they see Andre as a safe enough opponent for Hogan to wrestle."

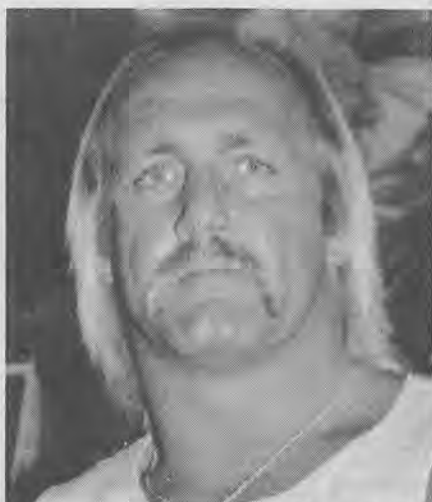
Andy Rodriguez: "Hulk Hogan. Their strength is roughly equal, so the deciding factor will be Hogan's speed. It's an advantage he rarely has, and I think he's going to train much differently for this match to be able to take advantage of it."

Dave Rosenbaum: "Double-DQ. By the time all the hype for this match is done with, these guys are going to be so anxious to get at each other, I think they're going to be completely out of control. The action will spill out of the ring, and both men will be counted out."

Mike Steinke: "I pick Andre. It's not a coincidence that this man is undefeated. He's the best there ever was, and until he is beaten in the ring nobody can tell me differently. This match will give Andre the recognition he deserves—not as a freak attraction, but as a superb athlete and wrestler."

Jeff Ryan: "Hogan. Andre hasn't faced the level of competition Hogan has over the past few years, particularly in singles matches. His undefeated record is irrelevant. What matters is the preparedness of the two men when they step into that ring in March. Hogan is primed for combat."

Rich Countis: "Hogan, no contest. Just look at their bodies. Hogan is younger, faster, and far better conditioned. Don't go out



Most of our staff picks Hulk Hogan to defeat Andre the Giant at WrestleMania III. The reasons include Hogan's title match experience and Andre's age. But Andre does have supporters here who say that the Giant's tremendous pride will not allow him to lose.

for a beer; this one could be over quickly."

Eddie Ellner: "Hogan will win, as much as I hate to admit it. Andre can train seriously for a year and would still be too overweight to give Hogan a match. Hogan is just as strong as Andre, and regardless of how much the fans cheer him, The Hulkster can break rules with the best of them."

Matt Brock: "Today, I have to go with Hogan. But in his prime, Andre was an incredible wrestler. He was 7'5", but he was under 400 pounds, and he could move like a cat. The Washington Redskins recognized his athletic ability and offered him a tryout. I would have loved to see these two wrestle back then. But too much time has passed. Andre is not the man he once was. And Hogan must have sensed this match coming, because, in recent months, he has wrestled bigger and bigger challengers. Hogan is ready today; Andre was ready 10 years ago."

Liz Hunter: "Hogan is going to win, which is, in a way, very sad. It would have been nice to see Andre go out undefeated. Then again, if he didn't force this match, he probably would have gone through life wondering if he could have beaten Hogan. In my heart, I'm hoping for a draw, with

no rematch, but realistically, Hogan is going to win."

Stu Saks: Finally, I get to say something. I feel the WWF is going to be very sorry it ever made this match. It's undoubtedly going to be a box-office smash, a wrestling superfight to go along with boxing's Hagler-Leonard showdown. And the money this match brings in will soften the blow of losing Hogan as champion. Yes, I strongly believe that Andre is going to pull off the upset of the century and take the belt. All the frustration that Andre has endured in his life is going to manifest itself into one violent outburst that is going to net him the title. Nobody I know has suffered more frustration than Andre. And being denied title shots is just a small part of it. Being 7'5", he's never been allowed to lead a normal existence. Once he said that he enjoyed his life as a wrestling star, but that he would trade it all in to just be 6'5" or 5'5". He can't buy normal clothes, he can't sleep in normal beds, he can't fit into a seat at the movies. Now that he is near the end of his brilliant career, he feels unfulfilled. And on March 29 he's going to explode. Hogan's facing more than another challenger; he's facing a lifetime of anger and a career of being denied a chance to be the best he is capable of being. □

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THE INSIDER

(Continued from page 18)

spine-tingling wars these two engaged in a half-decade ago will be bitterly disappointed. Since their last encounters, both men have gone in different directions: Hogan, to the top of his profession; Andre, to one step shy of Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey.

Fifteen years ago Andre the Giant, a.k.a. Jean Ferre, a.k.a. Andre Roussimoff, a.k.a. Holy %\$&*, Lookit That Guy!, was the most imposing specimen in professional sport. His physical and athletic tools had a resonance all their own. Sheer size and strength predicted the outcome of 90 percent of his matches. Next to Andre, a 6'5", 250-pound wrestler was a mere child in the ring. Eventually, Andre took to wrestling two or three of these "children" at once—and winning.

The promotional utility of the Giant was obvious and he was duly exploited by promoters around the world. Except Andre was not only big. This Giant was agile, he was toned—some found him even handsome. A seven-and-a-half-foot tall sex symbol who could also wrestle... why not Federal Express every championship belt to him immediately? Why go through the formality of wrestling?

Remarkably, there were challengers. Ernie Ladd and Don Leo Jonathan humbled Mr. Giant on several occasions, bloodying him, stomping him, teaching him that there were other giants with whom he must share the spotlight.

But because he was good and signed autographs and appealed to the fans, Andre was protected. Suddenly, despite several brutal pastings, a legend evolved around his huge, sloping shoulders... Andre was undefeated.

Of course, a claim of that nature could never be verified—or

disputed. Those contending to have beaten Andre were dismissed as outrageous. Beat Andre? Look at the man! How could anyone ever beat him? And the fans, as all fans do for their heroes, believed.

It is ironic that in the end Andre has been betrayed by the very physiology that made him famous. His frame, once dubbed the "ninth wonder of the world," has caved in. Flesh he once metabolized into muscle now hangs from his body like jewels from a bulldog. He has become fat. His stomach is bulged and rounded, his legs shake like Jello; even his ears have gained weight.

Yet his legend has not only continued, it has been augmented. *Andre captures WrestleMania 2 battle royal ... Andre body-slams John Studd ... Andre defeats Orndorff.* Each victory is tainted by outside interference because Andre, after more than five minutes in the ring, has become a class A-1 coronary risk. To protect their goldmine, promoters have made certain the Giant was looked after.

In that sense, his upcoming match against Hogan will be quick. Neither man has the stamina to last longer than 10 minutes. Hogan will defeat Andre. If he wasn't so blinded by the legend, I dare say Hogan would destroy Andre. But no one, not even a stumbling clod like Hogan, likes to see legends shattered. Just ask Larry Holmes about Muhammad Ali.

The victory over the indomitable Giant will catapult Hogan into the pantheon of legend himself, if he isn't already there. That is a shame. In a perfect world, Hogan would be a semifinal grappler; Andre would remain an attraction primarily for children. Yet soon, they will battle for a world title in what will no doubt be one of the largest grossing shows of all time.

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SAVAGE VS. STEAMBOAT

(Continued from page 35)



As the referee holds him back, Steamboat bashes Savage with a chair. Some doctors say Steamboat was injured too severely to be coming back this soon.

money to the WWF and he needed a clean bill of health to return, so they just gave him one. Look at the Dynamite Kid situation. That man had no business being anywhere near a wrestling ring [when The British Bulldogs lost the WWF World tag team belts to The Hart Foundation].

"Steamboat is stepping into the ring against one of the most ruthless men in professional wrestling, the very man that injured him so badly in the first place," Eady continued. "I just don't see how he can risk his career for the sake of a feud. Bonnie [Steamboat's wife] should try to keep her husband out of the ring."

Bonnie Steamboat will admit privately that she is concerned about her husband's health. In fact, after publicly calling for revenge immediately after her husband was injured by Savage, she reportedly told a high-ranking WWF official recently that Rick is in great pain when he comes home from his matches these days, and then practically begged this official to make Steamboat stop wrestling. Even Bonnie Steamboat can't control her husband. Rick Steamboat is dead set on revenge.

Bonnie has been living her own private horror over the past year.

First, she sat in shock as Jake Roberts wrapped his huge boa constrictor around her husband's prone body. It was a shocking incident that nauseated even the most hardened wrestling observer. Then, Roberts took the snake's head and stuck it in Steamboat's mouth. Fans were seen headed for the bathroom at a record pace.

That feud never reached a conclusion. The two wrestlers were too well-matched, and Roberts was just too ruthless. Then came the Savage incident in Binghamton, New York, when The Macho Man culminated a brutal attack by grabbing the ring bell and diving off the top rope directly into Steamboat's neck.

Certainly, no wife should be witness to such horror. Friends have tried to keep Bonnie from attending her husband's matches, but she refuses to listen to them. "It's almost as if she wants to be there if tragedy strikes," said a close friend who requested that her name not be revealed. "If her husband is going to be seriously injured, she wants to be there with him. I just hope it doesn't happen that way."

Steamboat gained some measure of revenge during a match between Savage and George Steele on *Saturday Night's Main Event*. Steamboat twice ran out of the dressing room and chased Savage from the ring. Steamboat, however, never got a hand on Savage and therefore walked away knowing that he had only taken one small step.

Steamboat was uncharacteristically reckless in subsequent meetings with Savage. He brought a chair to the ring for a match in Hershey, Pennsylvania, used it on The Macho Man, and got disqualified.

(Continued on page 62)

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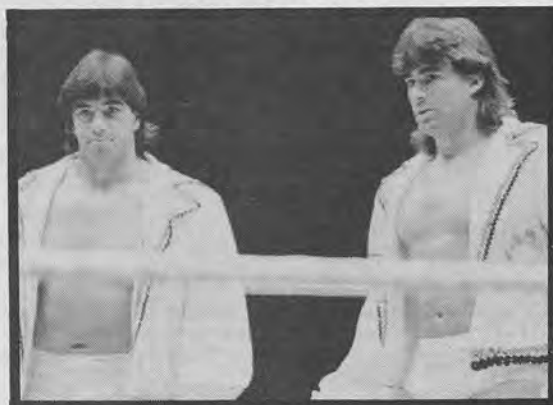
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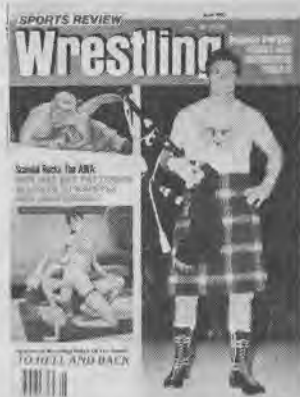
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March 1984/Starrcade '83, Closeups on Atlanta and Dallas cards.

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July 1985/Von Erich, WrestleMania, bloodiest matches, Backlund, Snuka.

August 1985/Flair-Nikita, Orndorff, Slaughter, Parade of Champions II.

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January 1986/Savage-Santana, Abdullah, Humongous, Von Raschke, Comiskey Park, Taylor.

February 1986/Junkyard Dog, Rude, Patrick, Garvin, Reed, Datebook.

March 1986/Starrcade '85, Ventura, Windham, Sunshine, Slaughter.



APRIL 1986

April 1986/Savage-Hogan, Martel-Hansen, 1985 in Pictures, Warriors, DiBiase.

May 1986/Sammartino, R&R Express, Sunshine-Hyatt, Slater, Devastating Holds, Hall & Hennig.

June 1986/Hogan-Muraco, Midnight Express, Freebirds, Battle of Belts II.

July 1986/Orndorff-Piper, Blanchard-T.A., Matches of '80s, Shepherders, Bockwinkel, Bulldogs.

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SAVAGE VS. STEAMBOAT

(Continued from page 58)



Steamboat and Hulk Hogan throw Savage off the ropes before The Macho Man has a chance to use the timekeeper's bell on Steamboat . . . again.

fied. Steamboat, who always follows the rules, will apparently resort to anything in order to get back at Savage.

"This reckless path will get him killed in the ring," said Dr. Eady. "Just consider this. Savage steals the chair from Steamboat and slams him in the throat. Chances are nine in 10 that such a blow would cause Steamboat's trachea to collapse, and if that happens and he doesn't get immediate emergency treatment, we all know what will happen. Unfortunately, Steamboat is a grown man and he's allowed to make his own decisions."

Much to the dismay of Eady and Bonnie Steamboat, Rick has already made his decision: He'll get Savage or pay with his career. □

LEX LUGER

(Continued from page 37)



Luger will have his hand raised many times in victory during his time in the World Championship area, but will the fans be for or against him?

had always talked about ways to beat Flair, and now I figured we were both here to take our shots at it."

Needless to say, if Luger goes ahead with his plans to join The Four Horsemen, he won't get any shots at Flair. In fact, if things stand the way they are, he'll be directly at odds with Windham, because the Horsemen and Windham are engaged in an all-out war. "Keep away from The Four Horsemen!" is Windham's warning to Luger, but one has to wonder whether he's trying to save his friend or save himself.

Windham has his hands full with The Four Horsemen. His war with Flair peaked on January 13 in Columbia, South Carolina, during an incredible title match. As the match progressed, Tully Blanchard, Arn Anderson, Ole Anderson, Dusty Rhodes, and The Rock 'n' Roll Express surrounded the ring, turning the main event into an instant lum-

(Continued on page 64)

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LEX LUGER

(Continued from page 63)



During his early months in the sport, Luger feuded with Windham. With their friendship strained by Luger's new attitude, the two could be on a collision course.

berjack match. Each time Flair or Windham fell out of the ring, they were thrown back in.

Windham was in complete control, but Flair, ever the champion, kept finding ways to fight back. Finally, Windham mounted a torrid attack that culminated with Flair's shoulders flat on the mat. But just as the referee was about to give the three-count, the Horsemen ran in and a wild brawl ensued among all eight wrestlers. Windham was declared the winner by disqualification, but he still didn't have the belt.

"I proved right there that I could beat Flair," said Windham. "He knew it and he's probably gonna think twice before he gets back in the ring with me. I'm not gonna be a challenger for long. I'm gonna be champion."

Though Windham currently holds the U.S. tag team title with Ronnie Garvin and wouldn't be able to team with Luger, he feels that together, he and Lex could make life very uncomfortable for Flair. "Just imagine," says Windham. "Me one night, Lex the next, then me again the night after, then Lex again. How long do you think Flair would keep that belt? A week? Maybe

two? He wouldn't stand a chance."

Instead, Windham finds himself in a position in which he'll be lucky to stay in one piece, much less beat Flair for the title. "We have every intention of immobilizing Mr. Windham," said manager J.J. Dillon. "If he's going to get to Ric Flair, he's gonna have to get through The Four Horsemen first and that's just not going to happen. It's a simple question of mathematics. Four Horsemen. One Windham."

And maybe even Lex Luger. "Mr. Luger would be a fine addition to the Horsemen, but right now I'm looking at the pros and cons of the situation," said Dillon. "The Four Horsemen have been so successful for so long, I'd hate to tamper with such a great combination. However, Mr. Luger is an exceptional athlete and could make the Horsemen the single greatest force in wrestling history."

This is not the first time that Luger and Windham have been at odds. Luger was a feared rulebreaker during his early days in Florida and was at war with both Windham brothers. Eventually, though, Luger changed his ways and formed an outstanding tag team with Barry. Their friendship blossomed, and often they would sit around and discuss ways to defeat Flair.

They could have been an awesome twosome in the World Championship area.

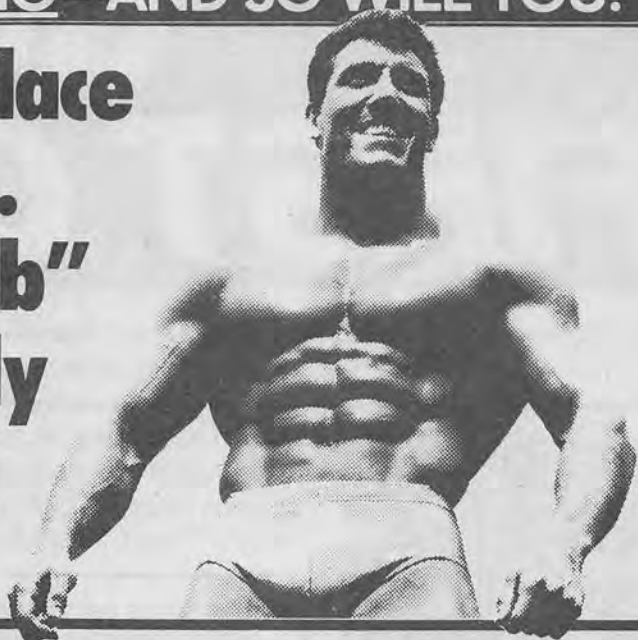
"It's almost like Lex has forgotten everything, and to tell you the truth I don't see how being with the Horsemen is gonna get him any money," says Windham. "All the money and the glory is in being champion. That's what it's all about. Lex is making a big mistake. His whole career is at stake."

That's a decision Luger will have to make. But if Luger and Windham square off in the ring, whose career is it going to be? ☐

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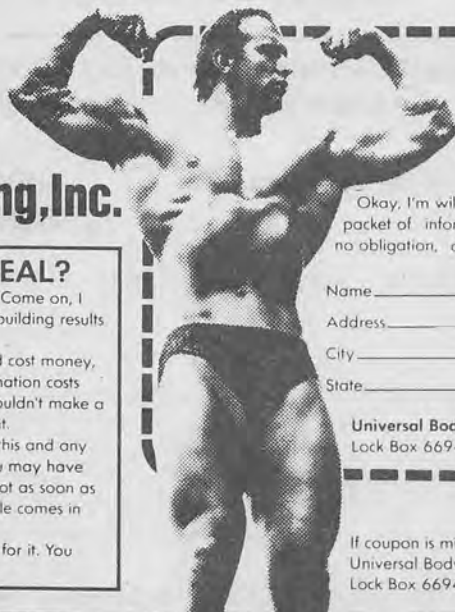
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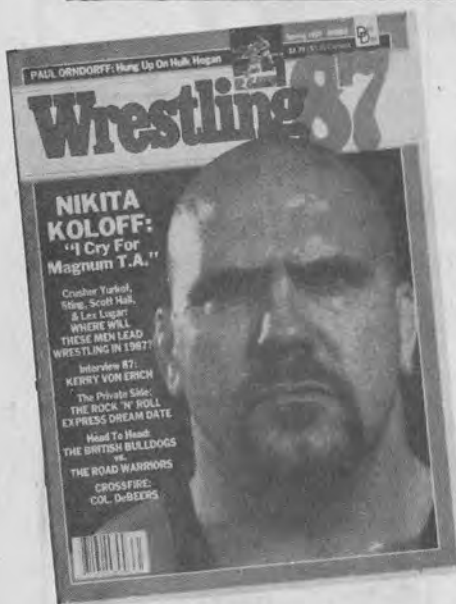
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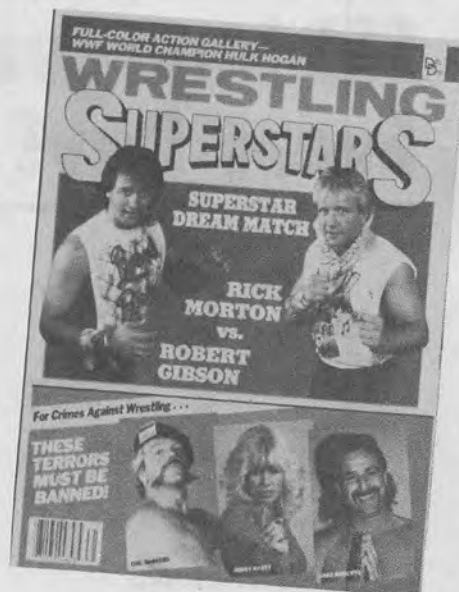
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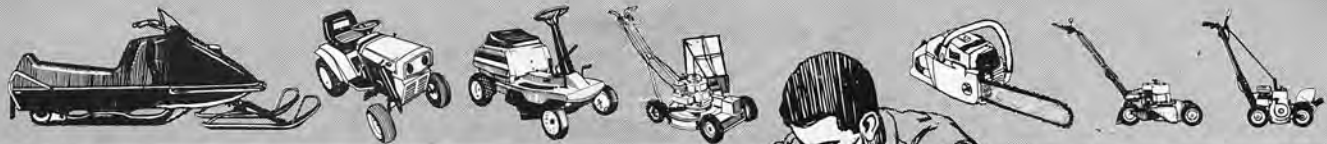
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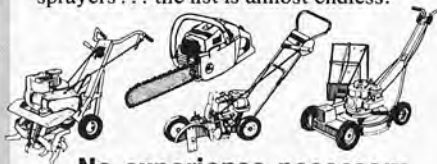
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